SHIN MEGAMI TENSEI: NINE

GAME SCRIPT [ENGLISH] BY ALEXANDER HOLLINS

Title screen;
Press Start Button
*New Game

Please enter your details;
(The first option is name)
*Name: [First section is family name, second section is for the individual. The default name is アズマ・ケイ, Azuma Kei. You may type in your own name but the keyboard is in Japanese so I wouldn't recommend it. Besides, Azuma Kei is a pretty kickass name. Thus it shall be the default for this game script.] Azuma (Surname) Kei (Given name)
(The second option is gender)
*Gender: 男 Male, 女 Female

[In this game script the default gender is male]
*Select the bottom button to confirm
Is this alright?
*Select the first option to confirm

[Starting note before we go into this: alignments in this game are based on player choices and the equipment you use, as well as your demons. As this is a Neutral-Neutral ending game script, you'd better keep all your items and demons on the N-N alignment. This is very important. Good luck, and enjoy the lost gem of Shin Megami Tensei NINE.]

(You awake in your cold and dreary home)

Mother: You're finally awake.

Emi: Big bro, if you go out can you get the reference number for the new department store?

Mother: It's in Kichijoji, near the Shopping Mall.

Emi: Yeah!

Mother: I heard that they'll be regulating admission on the first day. I take it that means you won't be allowed in if you don't have the reference number.

Emi: Th-Thanks Big bro!

#CALL#

Baraki: Urahime is gonna be in front of Alto! Use a terminal, come to Shinjuku!

*Option:
(Option 1) Speak

Baraki: What are you doing? Wait in front of Alto.

*Option:
(Option 1) Speak

Baraki: Hey, hey. Don't make me say it again! In front of Alto, in front of Alto!

*Option:
(Option 1) Speak

Baraki: Wha-? Don't you like Urahime? Nah, I don't think so. Just hurry up.

*Option:
(Option 2) Urahime?

Baraki: Huh?! You don't know Urahime Miki? After all this time I never thought you'd be the kinda guy to be that ignorant, ya know? Figures. She's an idol, man. You wouldn't have many opportunities to see girls like her, so let's go!

*Option:
(Option 2) Urahime?

Baraki: Get here. Fast. Before I die. You really don't know her?

*Option:
(Option 3) Dive

Baraki: Well, I'll be waiting!

#END CALL#

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. Please, what is your name?

*Option:
(Option 2) Do not say your name

Computer Guide: The Central Administration Bureau prohibits the use of terminals for those who do not verify their names. This is a measure of crime prevention in Idea Space. Please take note. That being said, will you please state your name?

*Option:
(Option 1) Say your name

Computer Guide: Azuma Kei. Approval granted. It is worth mentioning that I will be taking note of your terminal use. As you may know, there are restrictions imposed on making changes to face and physique within Idea Space. You may not act as to misrepresent your identity or to falsify one with malice aforethought, though there is an open allowance to hairstyle and clothing changes. I do apologise, though please understand that this is for crime prevention purposes only. Also, recently cases of Noise in Idea Space have been increasing. If there are Noise near you in Idea Space, please evacuate to a terminal in your vicinity and return to the real world. In addition, when such accidents occur in Idea Space, it is expected that your spirit will... In the worst cases we fear you may become a Doll, but the Administration Bureau will not take responsibility for this. Please understand it is in our best wishes that you stay safe.

*Option:
(Option 1) Ask a question
*Option:
(Option 1) Ask about the Bioenergy Association

Computer Guide: At the Bioenergy Association we sell the Magnetite necessary to run your Navi functions. If you are in need of Magnetite, please make your purchase at the Bioenergy Association. In addition, we are also purchasing unnecessary Magnetite at the Association...

Please indulge us if you have any you'd needn't keep. The exchange rate for Magnetite and Macca is always fluctuating, so be on the lookout.

*Option:
(Option 1) Ask a question
*Option:
(Option 2) Ask about Noise

Computer Guide: The term "Noise" refers to a bug in Idea Space. These bugs embody dangerous forms in the virtual space; forms that endanger users. Responding to these threats are the Administration Bureau members going by the name of the Debuggers, working under Central Control. The Debuggers eliminate Noise through a special Navi system set up by the Administration Bureau.

*Option:
(Option 1) Ask a question
*Option:
(Option 3) What was it you said about Dolls?

Computer Guide: In the case that a severe mental shock is triggered in the virtual space... As it is, the following perpetual unconscious state makes the victim nothing more than a lifeless Doll. Although the condition leaves you physically alive, you are utterly brain-dead. These symptoms tend to appear immediately after damage from Noise... but the possibility of such is suppressed to an extremely low probability by the work of our Debuggers.

*Option:
(Option 1) Ask a question
*Option:
(Option 4) Debuggers?

Computer Guide: Debugger is the title given to the Central Administration staff organised to maintain the security of Idea Space. For detailed inquiry, please contact the Central Administration Bureau directly.

*Option:
(Option 1) Ask a question
*Option:
(Option 5) Navi?

Computer Guide: Navi is the name of the navigational program that the Administration Bureau provides for General Users. Navi allows you to send and receive information, as well as acting as a guidance system. They are your virtual pets, to an extent. The Navi systems used by Debuggers are mainly for exterminating Noise, and have great durability. For both Debuggers and General Users, Magnetite is a necessity to function. Please note that if Magnetite runs out it will interfere with navigational functions. So, to avoid any navigational congestion, "Akiba Arena" in Akihabara and Roppongi's "Gelfal" sell Magnetite. Please keep in mind that our allowance of you using Navi is obligatory, and in no way a totally free service.

*Option:
(Option 1) Ask a question
*Option:
(Option 6) Explain this "Magnetite" thing

Computer Guide: Magnetite is the energy source necessary for the Navi program to work. When the remaining amount of Magnetite fully depletes, the power of the Navi is deprived and slowly dies... so please be careful of how much Magnetite you have readily accessible. In addition,

Magnetite can be purchased at the Bioenergy Association. It is possible to revive the Navi at Esther Clover, but please be warned that it will cost you a lot of your hard earned Macca.

*Option:
(Option 2) Roger that

Computer Guide: Well, please enjoy Idea Space with care. Urahime Miki Live will be held in front of Alto in Shinjuku. Please hurry, and watch out for Noise.

[At this point you are teleported inside of Idea Space, shot through the terminal at the back of your home. You appear in a virtual recreation of Tokyo, specifically Shinjuku. Almost all of the people around you are telling you to go to Alto to see Urahime Live. Others are confused about how you don't know of Urahime Miki. Children on the street tell of how almost everyone will be there, how it is a must-see event. There are various shops nearby that you can enter and buy items from, most of which are fairly self-explanatory. The HP and SP bonuses are clearly shown, as is the price. To exit conversations with storekeepers, press the bottom button on the list. A lot of the shops and areas are completely void of things to do, so don't bother searching everyplace for herbs like it's Resident Evil: Code Veronica X. Walk from the starting point towards the camera until you reach a scramble intersection. From there turn to the overhead train tracks and walk underneath them. The first door leads to the Demon Fusion chamber, which is also self-explanatory. For now though you can't fuse anything, so give that a pass. All this room's centre statue offers now is a lot of flavour-text, but it'll be useful for fusions later on. Leave this room if you haven't already. Walking out of the other side of the bridge you should see Esther Clover, where you can fix up your Navi if it gets busted 'cause you've neglected your duties as a parent. Oh yeah, this is also where you customise your character, so go ahead and give them bright red hair and a mohawk. Leaving here, you can't walk any further down that direction because a guy stops you. So walk back to the scramble intersection and then back to the starting point, now armed with the knowledge of the two most important places in the game. Right where you spawned up, non-coincidentally, is a terminal. It is marked as ターミナル. So like the good English boi you are, press the only option with the word MAP written on it and be pleasingly greeted b- holy shit yes the map is in English! You have no other option but to go to Shinjuku, clicking the first option「はい」to get yourself moving. That's right, moving right back to where you already were. Sorry, I just need to make these important things clear to start off. Remember that the third button on the terminal is to save. That's really important. Alto is to your character's left as you reach the scramble intersection once more.]

(Alto is a large building with a stage-like balcony that Urahime Miki stands upon to gleefully smile at her fans below. The crowd is being monitored by two Debuggers of the Administration Bureau, a male and a female. Above Urahime is a large screen that projects her image as she starts to sing, but seemingly out of nowhere Legion attacks the concert. Legion knocks down the male Administration Staff member, and his female partner rushes to his side as he writhes on the floor)

Administration Woman: Seri! Seri... Seri! Get up! Se-Seri, don't do this... The Noise was too fast, it...

(A powerful-looking Navi approaches Azuma. It's Kerberos)

Kerberos: Use my power. Show me your ability.

Administration Woman: Why, what's the Navi doing...?

Baraki: W-Why is this guy talking to you Azuma?

Administration Woman: There's no time to think! Quick, kid, use these!

(The Administration Woman spawns two Navi beside you and Baraki)

Baraki: Bu-But we're just General Users! You don't expect us to fight, do ya?

Administration Woman: It's too late to escape, the Noise is coming! Let's do this quickly!

Baraki: Dammit! This is it, let's go!

[The game's first boss (or enemy encounter) occurs, against Legion. Don't threat, it's damn easy.]

Kerberos: That was tiresome... You still depended on my strength to win.

Administration Woman: Why would the program do such a thing...?

Kerberos: Program, me? No, it can't be. I can always ask master. My powerful master... goodbye.

Administration Woman: W-Wait!

(Kerberos leaves)

Baraki: Oi, oi, he just left! That thing, was it Chuo's Navi?!

[Chuo is a slang term for the Central Administration Bureau.]

Administration Woman: I believe that was Seri's Navi. Anyway, thanks to you guys I was saved. I will leave the Administration Bureau's Navi to you.

Baraki: Huh? Are these the special Navi used by Debuggers?

Administration Woman: Indeed. You'll need some weapons too.

Received Attack Knife
Received Tokarev
Received Head Gear
Received Piper Vest
Received Back Pad
Received Leather Boots

Administration Woman: You know how to use these, right?

Baraki: I'm no idiot, I wasn't born yesterday. I know my way around these.

Administration Woman: Great, well if you don't mind I will be returning to the real world. I need to get back to Seri, I have to save him. I have to try...

Baraki: It's a shame his life could leave so fast...

Administration Woman: Other staff members will come and handle you later. If anything happens the Central Administration Bureau will know.

(Later)

Baraki: I'm psyched you came to the live show. I could never have thought we'd end up actually fighting Noise! Who da man?!

#CALL#

Emi: Big bro, did you get it yet?

Baraki: Yo, long time no see, Emi.

Emi: Oh, Baraki. You guys have done bad stuff, haven't you?

Baraki: You're joking! We only ever do good things!

Emi: Liar... Well, if you're already doing "good things," you can do something good for Emi!

Baraki: Hey Azuma, your cute little sister's asking for it.

Emi: You better watch your back, Baraki. One of these days... Okay Big bro, gimme the reference number!

#END CALL#

Baraki: Reference number? Oh yeah, the new shopping mall in Kichijoji. I heard there's a new kind of batter booth up there, let's hit it up.

[From here all the people are freaking out about the Noise and also gossiping about the new mall up in Kichijoji. Try and learn your way around the menus and then use the terminal to travel to Kichijoji. From there walk down away from the camera to a wall of light leading to Rose Road.]

Baraki: Well, well. Can't go through here. Huh? Unless... yeah, I can hack in from there. This'll do the trick.

[The world around you dissolves into code and you jump into the wall of light. Betcha didn't expect hacking to work like that, but I guess it makes sense. You're already in the program after all, so it's just accessing the trippy nitty gritty.]

Drive: Kichijoji
Number of detection ports: 2
Magnetite carry-on capacity limit: 15000
Please select how much Magnetite to bring in:

Baraki: This is your first time hacking, right? I'll teach you the basics, so listen closely. First up is the port scan screen. What matters here is the number of detection ports and the Magnetite limit. These two. The number of detection ports represents the number of parties that can be initially deployed. Basically, you can deploy as many parties as the number of ports. When hacking with someone else, the number of parties that can be initially deployed will be reduced if you have to share the ports. Read up on those limitations too, they're important.

Gah- I don't even need to say this crap, you're not stupid... yeah, man, it'll be serious if your Magnetite depletes during hacking. We need to organise positions in the area as well. The 「スキル」(Skill) function can be used. Oh yeah, but it's impossible to work the navigation function here. After a successful hack, all the remaining Magnetite can be recovered. No need to fret. But I'll shut it now, let's not waste time. I'll provide you my services, if you cooperate. Great, now let's set the Magnetite amount. Put it up to 1000, for practice.

[Do as the man says, set the amount to 1000.]

Baraki: Yup, that'll do it. First, I will explain the concept of Drives to you. When it's hacking time, we... well, the map is made up of the Drive you have and the Drive of the party you're hacking. Huh, but sometimes there is no map to prevent hacking in the first place. It seems that trends and floors will change depending on the performance of Drives and whatever, but I don't know the details. Convoluted stuff, even for a pro like me. Right now, our Drive is green. The opponent's: orange.

Next, let's talk about success and failure in hacking. Look, Azuma. This is the Command Area. Every Drive always has a Command Area. You conquer this one, you win. Simple, right? Sure, even without breaking the Command Area, you can still win. You find the leader, kill him, the Drive'll stop, and then you've won. Everyone is satisfied. Depending on the Drive, you only really need to reach the Command Area. Oh yeah, there's also special patterns on the floors. I'll explain said patterns in due time. Say your Command Area is destroyed, would you say hacking was a success? It works both ways, you take theirs: you win; if your Drive's Command Area is conquered, hacking is a failure. Even if you're just about to conquer theirs, but they kick your ass first, you've failed the hack.

We spawn up from the ports. From the ports, find the Command Area. That's the basis of hacking. Since in most cases there are multiple ports, just put your party on whichever you want. Remember, there were two ports here. At the beginning of hacking, only one party can be placed in the one place. You can switch ports during hacking too. If you start to worry your Drive is going down, place another party for defence in a port closer by. When someone is attacking your Command Area, you should put your parties in places near or around the Command Area and have them beat the intruder. However... there will be times when I do the choosing for you, like this time. The arrangement is both advantageous and disadvantageous here. Just don't place anything on the texture, 'kay? Anyway, when hacking starts, it'll take some time to call for parties.

In the data space, things are organised in Route and Area. A Route is a line that is stretched in length and width. Every party will have to pass through this Route, except if they're using a special skill. I'm moving. Okay, so an Area is a special place on the Route, being the line. You getting all this? There are two types of Area; Plain Areas, and Data Areas. Data Areas are created by remodelling Plain Areas. Let's make a Data Area. This is a "Normal Area." It's a Data Area for preventing enemy invasion. There are four different models of Data Areas. In addition to the "Normal Area," there are: "Recovery Areas," "Production Areas," and "Trap Areas" to trap enemy parties. The three are also present. Hrgh, they're all so different... maybe it's best to investigate them later. There is a level system to the Areas too. If the level goes up, so does its effectiveness and resistance to attacks. If you want to win, or are afraid your Areas will get attacked, keep their levels high. However, to level up these Areas you'll need Magnetite, so be careful with your supply.

Well then, how about we actually get to doing something? I'll teach you how to move. After choosing a party with the cursor, select a destination. They'll move as soon as you do. Watch closely. (Moves) Yeah, this is it. First of all, move to the place I specify. This one's good, Azuma. Go to this position. [Select the port.] That's it. Now, select the place I just showed you.

[Go ahead, do as the man says. He's mostly done explaining things now, don't worry.]

Baraki: Alright, that's it. Move to the next target from there. It's the one in front of you, you should start automatically conquering it once you arrive. Just wait till the capturing is over. The capturing/conquering speed will change depending on the parties speed stats. Right, capture the Area up ahead. (Yup, that Area) That's right, Azuma. Great, now select the Area up ahead.

[Select and approach the Area with your party.]

Baraki: Good job, Azuma. Now you're gonna wanna listen to this. Open the command and set the Area and level you want, okay? Watch what I do.

[Baraki does a few commands. After opening the menu he selects the first option, then the first that comes up from there. He selects the next Area and his party follows.]

Baraki: It's roughly like that. From your position, select "Normal Area," then "Level 1." After placing your party, if you select the same party again, you can command them. First of all, select your party and choose the command 「構築」, then 「ノーマルエリア」, before finally 「レベル1」.

[What he means is to select the first option (Construction), then Normal Area (also the first option after that), and then the next first option (level 1). Go ahead and do that after selecting your party.]

Baraki: That's right. Now, choosing the position from where you are, the capturing will begin. [Watch for a bit.] The capture is complete. You can change your capture speed, by the by. You can do this in places after you've captured them. As a matter of fact, you did that pretty well. Phew, that's it. That's all you need to know on hacking. Now's the final hurdle, you've done well. I'm almost proud of you, Azuma. (Party moves up) Follow me!

[Select your party and then the Command Area.]

Baraki: Hell yeah, let's beat it!

[Defeat the Command Area.]

Baraki: Finally, not bad for your first time. Let's head back to Idea Space!

Hacking Successful!

[Receive the completion bonus, you've earned it from sitting through all that explaining. It wasn't even that much of a confusing concept, I think this Baraki guy just likes the sound of his own voice. His own voice in Idea Space, which I guess'd be a construct of his subconscious. Huh.]

(Outside)

Baraki: How's that? C'mon, that was just the first step.

(Baraki leaves like the swine he is. Don't worry, only a few steps into the newly opened area and you'll meet again. You spot a girl in the distance)

Baraki: Huh? There's a girl over there...

(The girl sees you two and runs away)

Baraki: Hey! Hey, wait up! What's up with that?

Administration Man: Hey! What are you two doing in a place like this?

Baraki: Shit, Chuo's...

Administration Man: This place is restricted from General Users. We haven't finished clearing the Noise out yet!

Baraki: Okay man, let's jet it!

(You run away and catch your breath around a corner)

Baraki: Hooboi, that was rough. If he caught us we could've been banned from Idea Space! (Noise shrieks in the distance) Wha- That sound just now, what was it?

(The two of you follow the sound, only to find the little girl cornered by Noise)

Baraki: Hey, get out of the way! Are you deaf?! Get the hell out of its way!

Little Girl: Ah, ah...

Baraki: Azuma! Hurry up and use your new Navi!

[A super quick fight breaks out that is pretty easy and not too hard to navigate. Baraki's helping you too, so there isn't much of a threat in the Noise.]

Baraki: Oi, what's a little girl like you doing in a place like this?

Little Girl: S-Sumire... Nothing bad will happen... Honest...

Baraki: Sumire? Is that your name?

(The Administration Man catches up to you)

Administration Man: Is everything okay?

Baraki: After all this time you were still following us?

Administration Man: Of course, it's my job. Wait, did you exterminate the Noise?

Baraki: We did your job, are you really gonna complain?

Administration Man: Eh, that Navi is from the Administration...

Baraki: Yeah, we got 'em from a Debugger like yourself.

Administration Man: Tch, whatever the reason this place is still restricted. I'll have to get the records of you all, then we'll be going down to Administration.

Baraki: Really...?

Sumire: I-I'll be a good girl, please don't tell my dad!

Baraki: Tch, your papa? Nice girl, eh?

(Later on in a large polished building looking over all of Idea Space)

Administration Man: This is the Central Administration Bureau within the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. I see my introduction has been delayed; my name is Mubiora.

(He continues)

Mubiora: And this is Tudumi, the Bureau's Director. We are the Debugger's leaders.

Tudumi: I see... they show promise.

Baraki: Promise? The hell're you on about? Promise won't get us anywhere, though if there's any money in it for us I'd be happy to do whatever.

(A woman carrying an aura of mighty power enters. Her name is Feris)

Feris: Is that so? There are rumours about you two...

Mubiora: President, thanks for joining us.

Feris: There's a lot of talk going on around the Shinjuku and Kichijoji areas. My name is Feris, and I supervise the Central Administration Bureau.

Baraki: President? You created Idea Space in the...?!

Feris: I created Idea Space in the underground city, yes. "Make great the Messians of old." I am a woman of that intention.

Baraki: That's great and all, but why bother us?

Feris: I'd like you two to be Debuggers.

Baraki: You gotta be kidding, right?!

Tudumi: You must see this honourable request as more of a demand, seen as it's coming from your President. Will you be a Debugger for the continued prosperity of Idea Space?

Baraki: What'll you do, Azuma?

*Option:
(Option 1) What exactly would this job entail?

Tudumi: I guess I'll have to tell you eventually... Debugger is a word that fits both Hackers and Debuggers... As of course you're main duty would be treatment and the abolishment of Noise in Idea Space. Surely you understand this is a very dangerous job... In the worst case you'll just be made into a Doll.

Baraki: Yeah, we saw the shit that happened to that Debugger in Shinjuku...

Tudumi: Seri... He's still in a light state, but we think he'll come around in the coming days.

Baraki: Work at your own risk I guess...

Tudumi: Exactly. Dangerous tasks may even extend into the real world. I'd say this job is equivalent to the police organisations of the past, back when there was a world to police. But of course, you'll be receiving privileges denied to the general public, and you'll be paid handsomely. Nevertheless, you shan't be made immune to the law and its punishment, Baraki-kun?

Baraki: Ba- Don't be stupid! I'm sick of hearing that crap! Oi, Azuma. Do ya wanna be a Debugger or not?

*Option:
(Option 2) Don't become a Debugger

Baraki: Wha- Seriously?! Hey, if you refuse I'm getting that fancy Navi you got.

Feris: That's alright, please head home and think it over.

(Returns to the real world)

#CALL#

Baraki: I'm definitely becoming a Debugger. I'll be heading there right away tomorrow. I'll be waiting for you!

#END CALL#

Emi: Welcome back, Big bro! Did you get the reference number?

*Option:
(Option 2) No I did not

Emi: B-Big bro, do you hate me? Th-that's okay, I can get it myself.

(Emi leaves)

#CALL#

Sumire: It's Sumire! Thanks for helping me, that was pretty cool of you.

[End of chapter One]

*Option:
(Option 1) Save
(Option 2) Load
(Option 3) Next Chapter

[Save, brush your hair, make sure your breath smells good and proceed to the garden of madness. Just hit the third option, or it'll happen automatically.]

#CALL#

Feris: Have you changed your mind? If it really is your intention to become a Debugger, please come to the headquarters. The Central Administration Bureau considers that your only true option. What will you do?

*Option:
(Option 2) I won't go

Feris: That's truly a pity. Although, you should know you cannot escape fate. What will you do?

*Option:
(Option 2) I won't go

Feris: You seem in doubt, but your cooperation is no impossibility. However it would be far less strain on all of us if you'd just accept reality. What, may I ask, will you do?

*Option:
(Option 2) I won't go

Feris: You'd better make up your mind now. What will you do?

*Option:
(Option 1) Fine, I'll go

Feris: You seem to be quite lost. In any case, we are glad that you've come to the correct decision. Well then, we are waiting.

#END CALL#

[There's only one button you can press in the corner of the screen. It reads: Dive. Go ahead and give it a sweet ol' click.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. Please enjoy your safe trip into Idea Space.

[You are greeted by a map of Idea Space. Choose to go to Shinjuku. You will appear in the Command Centre (the polished building from before), so just walk over to your pals in the foreground to start the scene.]

Feris: We were waiting.

Baraki: I knew you'd come through eventually... I got it man! I got a job... See you later!

(Baraki exits)

Tudumi: I want you to work on a task at once.

Feris: (As she is walking away) Azuma-san, I expect a lot from you...

(Feris exits)

Tudumi: Well now, please allow me to introduce your partner before the mission. Her name is Miranda.

Miranda: ... I was called upon again. (Salutes) I will be your partner until Seri recovers. Thank you.

Tudumi: (Leans in) I will tell you the points of caution at the mission. Listen for the call, we'll inform you when you're necessary. Please, come to the Command Centre directly. (Steps back) Now, I'll tell you more about the mission later. Let's get your work done at once.

[When you gain control, go and talk to Tudumi.]

Tudumi: First of all, I'd like for you to patrol Idea Space.

Miranda: The situation of Idea Space is constantly monitored by the system, so Debuggers don't have to patrol everywhere. It'd be daring to patrol all of Idea Space at once, General Users wouldn't feel safe. Isn't there anything else we could do to deter crime?

Tudumi: However modest it may be, patrolling is an important mission. And another thing, there's been problems in the city due to poor programming that's been disadvantaging users. There's been cases of "Abandoned Navi" walking the streets. There's a hefty risk when you've got stray Navi around, so they must be promptly protected or treated.

Miranda: Persuade Abandoned Navi and protect them as your own, right? If we lose a persuasion we'll have to fight and kill them.

Tudumi: It'd be best if people who've actually experienced it could explain. (To Miranda) Miranda, I'll ask for a follow-up on Azuma.

Miranda: Understood. (Turns to you) Ok, Azuma, let's go.

Tudumi: Wait a minute.

Miranda: What is it?

Tudumi: I forgot to give this to Azuma. It's a Dark Amethyst.

Miranda: Hm...

Tudumi: Alright, Azuma. We must fight this war against the Noise. To do so, we'll need to be at our best. It is necessary to upgrade the ability of your Navi to fight better and to be better; just use the Dark Amethyst or other gems. Your Drive... that is your ability. It is a special part with the power to improve.

Miranda: Look, we've all got the Debuggers waiting. If you use this Dark Amethyst your ability can level up tenfold. If your level increases, so does your Navi's.

Tudumi: That's not all, your Drive's capacity will increase too. It is possible to survive without a very high Drive capacity though, but dangerous.

Miranda: If you don't want to use the gems you can sell them at stores. Drive performance will still improve either way, assuming you are at least using the Dark Amethyst, of course. Parts for the actual Drive base's improvement are not available on the market.

Tudumi: There is one base part for the Drive. You can wear three jewels on such, those of which *are* available on the market. The way you level up is different depending on the jewels. Use it well for your duties. That is all.

Received Dark Amethyst

Miranda: Thank you. Let's go, Azuma.

[You have control again, so exit through the door you entered in. Outside the building walk towards the camera. You should be taken into a scene with your new partner, Miranda.]

Miranda: *Whispered* Look, there's a stray Navi over there. Azuma, try to persuade the Navi. You'll have to fight and exterminate it if you fail the persuasion. Good luck...

[You'll take control again, so head on over to the stray Navi. It's a Sudama. Oh yeah and you gotta be fast here, you're on a time limit.]

Sudama: What are you doing!? I'm all ears!

*Option:
(Option 1 [Choose quickly]) Come with us

Sudama: What? A human with a kind heart? What game are you playing at!? Do you want me to help you, is that it?

*Option:
(Option 1 [Again, quickly]) Lend me your power

Sudama: Power, eh? Well in that case how can I refuse? My name is Sudama, thank you.

[As Sudama dissipates into your baggie, Miranda has something to say.]

Miranda: It seems the negotiation was a success. If you keep that up you can protect a lot of stray, Abandoned Navi. Well then, let us continue our patrol. Let's go protect stray Navi in places other than Shinjuku.

[You'll have back control now so I recommend doing some exploring before going to the next areas. Also, Sudama is a pretty good Navi, though not your best at the moment. The Mode Council is a good place to get equipment for now, so going there will do you some good. When you're done stocking up go down to the nearest terminal and teleport to Kichijoji. Here you should walk in the direction of the hacking minigame from a while back. Encounter another stray Navi.]

Kinnari: What do you want from me? I'm feeling very uneasy right now.

*Option:
(Option 1 [Quick]) I came to help you

Kinnari: My, my, what a kind person... Although... I don't think you're being honest. For all I know, you could be a horrible person pretending to be a kind one!

*Option:
(Option 1 [Quick]) A naive kind person, truly

Kinnari: Oh, how hopeless. I know a good person when I see him, and you are a liar!

[You're going to have to fight Kinnari now. This is a good way to learn your way around how these negotiations can go. For now, good luck. It's real easy btw. And after the fight...]

Miranda: Let's end our patrolling for today. We should head back to the Bureau and report to Director Tudumi.

[Go back to the terminal and shoot yourself towards Shinjuku. Run into the building before approaching Tudumi.]

Tudumi: Seems like it was hard work. It is the Debugger's duty to be harsh towards those who disturb security; be it outside working hours, or otherwise. Always be on the lookout for abnormalities in Idea Space. Try to protect any stray Navi you find. (Faces Miranda) Miranda! I've received the order that you are to be Azuma's partner and teacher indefinitely until Seri recovers.

Miranda: Understood.

Tudumi: Okay, you may have already noticed but now that you've become a Debugger you can buy weapons from Assault Cafe and protective gear from Mode Council.

Miranda: Both the Assault Cafe and Mode Council are selling secret armoury for Debuggers.

Tudumi: If you are ever unsatisfied with your current equipment, purchase these at your own expense. Well, here is your reward for today's work.

Received Strength Incense
Received Jewel
Received Chakra Pot

Tudumi: That is all.

[You are back in control so head back to the simple terminal at the start of Shinjuku. On the way you can talk to the citizens, who now acknowledge you as a Debugger. Press the top button on the terminal that reads "Return to the real world."]

#CALL#

Baraki: Yo, Azuma. How's it feel now you're a Debugger? In the North District, where I live, I'm actually the only Debugger! Since my father died in the nuclear explosion I've always lived in the mud and scum of the poor district. But get this: now that I'm earning real dough from being a Debugger, I'm moving to the South District! Oh and Azuma, I heard some talk 'round town. Something about the underground shopping centre in Ueno being filled with Noise. I'm thinking of heading down there to test my grit, exterminate some Noise like the real hot boys. Why not come with? See ya.

#END CALL#

Mother: Welcome back, I just got home.

Emi: Big bro, you're kinda scary...

Mother: Each city has people of all sorts of personalities, you know. There are far too many temptations out there. Be careful.

(Family leaves)

#CALL#

Tudumi: I've got a new mission for you. Since you're becoming a real Debugger, you're getting full-fledged missions from now on. Please be at attention in the Administration Bureau Command Centre as soon as possible.

#END CALL#

[Press the only button, 'Dive.']

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. Be safe in Idea Space.

[Select Shinjuku and enter the Command Centre. Approach the meeting and talk to Tudumi.]

Tudumi: Well, I'll explain your mission. There's been a request for Noise removal from the owner of the underground shopping mall in Ikebukuro.

Mubiora: We were supposed to go for removal next week, but the number of Noise has proved dangerously more than expected. It cannot be left unattended.

Tudumi: There's an excessive amount in the underground. To the newly appointed Debuggers Azuma and Baraki, this might be a strenuous task...

Baraki: Wait a minute, don't be so soft! Azuma and I chose to be Debuggers, we know what's coming for us. There ain't nothing wrong with fighting off a huge group of Noise. It'll keep us on our toes. Right, Azuma?

*Option:
(Option 2) Turn down

Baraki: Oi, oi! Dude, why are you such a pussy?!

Miranda: Hush, he's anything but. Azuma turned it down because he understands his competence accurately. A smart move, almost commendable.

Baraki: What did you...?

Miranda: Your fighting skills are still weak and unreformed, you need more training.

Baraki: Tch...

Tudumi: Well then, I will leave this mission to Mubiora and Miranda. Azuma and Baraki will continue patrol as usual. That is all.

(Meeting disbands)

Tudumi: You won't be given a special mission this time. Patrol or take a rest at home.

[Head to Ueno! Walk around and take in the views and life of Ueno. There's a Mode Council nearby under an ArmyShop sign, so be sure to get some equipment or change your looks. The people around all have things to say and little snippets of flavour text so eat that up if you wish. When you're ready to continue walk down the path adjacent the Mode Council and enter the big industrial and dangerous looking door. Congrats, it's the first-ish dungeon sorta I guess! I recommend grinding about around the first area, not for XP but for Abandoned Navi and Noise. You gotta talk to them and give them items to succeed, otherwise you gotta kill them. You can take any of these to the main Demon Fusion chamber in Shinjuku to get yourself something neat, or just head on home through any terminal by pressing the top button.]

#CALL#

Sumire: It's Sumire! C'mon, I wanna play. It's a promise! Bye-bye!

#END CALL#

Emi: Big bro, who were you talking with just now?

#CALL#

Baraki: Yo, Azuma. Remember that under-construction underground shopping centre in Ueno? The one I told you 'bout? Well, I checked it out. The rumours were right, place was crawling with Noise. Heck man, I almost died a coupla' times. If it weren't for my increased Navi stock, I probably would've. Roppongi and Kichijoji have similar planned underground areas, so I'm going to check them out too! Ciao!

#END CALL#

#CALL#

Tudumi: You've got another mission, make your way over here at once.

#END CALL#

Emi: Big bro seems very busy. Good luck!

[Press Dive.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. Enjoy Idea Space.

[Now although you're meant to be there immediately, you can also grind a bit more before going to the Command Centre. I do recommend the grind, if only to get Navi. When that's done, approach Tudumi.]

Tudumi: Let me explain your mission. There is a malicious hacker with the strength of all four of you, and he's running wild. I want you to protect the data in a certain Drive.

Mubiora: It's a protection mission.

Tudumi: Recently from the computer of a private club, there has been more and more incidents of stolen customer data.

Miranda: Private club?

Mubiora: It's a membership club similar to a sex shop. It's unavoidable that there be shops of that kind around Idea Space...

Miranda: Why steal customer data of such a place?

Tudumi: It's mostly for the use of exposing people's privacy and personal pleasures. That kind of information could really do some damage, especially if the right people are caught with their pants down. There's a lot of people who work diligently and...

Miranda: It's sneaky...

Tudumi: This is coming from a shop in Kabuki-cho. There was a report saying that the store's Drive had been illegally accessed. It seems the criminal had been watching over them for some time, knew their way around. This will be your mission: protect the data from hackers by putting a defence line in the store's Drive. At the same time you need to reverse hack the system. I want to know the identity of the culprit.

Baraki: Reverse hacking?

Mubiora: Reversing the invasion route of the hacker. This way you can break into the opponent hacker's Drive. Since it's breaking into an unknown Drive, it'll be much more difficult.

Baraki: Don't worry about it, that's my field.

Tudumi: Miranda and Azuma are in charge of defending the Drive. Mubiora and Baraki will be responsible for the reverse hacking.

Baraki: Leave it to us.

Tudumi: Azuma, Baraki, you two will need this.

Received MAG Battery

Baraki: A MAG Battery...

Tudumi: If you equip it, then the number of parties in the Navi stocks during a ten body hack increases by one. Although the general public can only equip this MAG Battery once, we Debuggers can equip multiples to respond to various situations.

Baraki: Azuma, when we're hacking the one with the most parties has the highest chance of success. Remember that, kid.

Mubiora: The more MAG Batteries you add, the more parties you can have.

Baraki: Cheers.

Mubiora: I shall be off now.

Tudumi: The shop in question is next to a noodle store in Kabuki-cho. The store manager should be waiting at the entrance. Good luck!

[You have control so feel free to do some more grinding if that makes you happy. Even explore that dungeon a bit, get to know it. I can't stress how necessary the grind is in this game. When you are content, head to Shinjuku and walk a few steps towards the camera to find a sus guy in a pinkish shirt standing outside his shop. Talk to him.]

Papa: Y-You guys're the Chuo people, right? I've been waiting. You gotta help me man, protect our customer data! We don't need that shit getting out, it's bad for business.

Mubiora: We've got it covered. If you don't mind, we'd like to dive into the store's terminal. Miranda, Azuma, protecting the data is up to you two.

Miranda: Understood. We'll try to live up to the Central Administration's record of proficiency.

Mubiora: Alright, let's get started.

[Dive, Buddy.]

Drive: Shinjuku
Number of detection ports: 5
Magnetite carry-on capacity limit: 18000
Please select how much Magnetite to bring in:

[Select how much Magnetite to bring in. Naturally I'd suggest the limit, but if you don't have 18000 then you can aim lower. Your choice, it doesn't change much.]

You will take in #### Magnetite, is this okay?

*Option:
(Live or die, yes or no, you choose, just make up your mind)

Please do the initial setup.

[Here you choose your party information. Again, your choice. I don't really have a recommendation this time. パーティー means Party.]

Please choose a port.

[Choose one of the locations. I recommend the location furthest up the map.]

Is this port okay?

*Option:
(Is it? Yes or no)

parties can be placed to begin.

[Choose a party by pressing the button on the top left that reads 「配置」(meaning arrangements).]

Please select the party placement destination.

[Choose the place to place your party; probably in the big cube place.]

Magnetite is required for this, and you currently are in possession of #### Magnetite. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Yeah, it's g)

[You have control of the four buttons in the bottom left part of the screen. Press the bottom right of these buttons, or the one that reads 「終了」(meaning close).]

RTS will commence once you have finished. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Gosh, is it?) Yup

[Commence.]

Miranda: Look, Azuma's Navi has invaded the Drive.

Mubiora: From here Baraki and I will be doing the reverse hacking. We're on the offensive. Miranda, Azuma, you'll take the defensive.

Miranda: Azuma, Baraki, seen as this is your first real mission, I don't want you being reckless.

Baraki: Reckless? You talking to me?! Just focus on defending your Drive, leave us alone. (Quietly) Hey man, seriously watch out though. If the Command Area is destroyed, it'll be the end of our mission. (Whimsically) Yeah, I'll only need one shot at this!

Mubiora: Wait, Baraki!

Baraki: (Engaging in battle) Ku... The bastard's strong...

(Enemy is defeated)

Mubiora: Are you suicidal? Act more carefully, dammit! Tch, you have to pay attention to the enemy. Depending on the size of the battle, you may - and perhaps *should* - call for reinforcements. When there's a difference in fighting strength or such, you'd best fight with multiple parties. However, enemies will also call for reinforcements, and can even do so as a response to *your* reinforcements. (Explaining further) The enemy's Drive has a multilayer structure. First, destroy the Command Area that controls the lift area. Then the lower floors will be accessible. Let's go.

[You have control. Place your parties around the map and suppress the orange that will cover your team's green. Place parties in places that you think will turn orange, as well as the ones that are. Capture flags, fight enemies, do everything to keep the data safe. Everywhere you walk turns to green. You can access the lower levels to proceed. Once you win:]

Hacking Successful!

[The completion bonus screen is in English. Congrats!]

(Later at the Command Centre)

Tudumi: Well done, you all completed the mission. We now have clues as to who the hacker is. Another team is currently pursuing the culprit. Here is your reward for today's work.

Received Magic Incense
Received Hardened Ball
Received Five Colour Cassette

Tudumi: That is all.

[Return to the real world via a terminal, thank you.]

#CALL#

Miranda: You did well out there, Azuma. If I'm being honest I didn't think a beginner could go that far. (Ponders) Azuma, you live in the East District, correct? I also live there. I used to live with foster parents, but now I live alone. Since everyone's visiting Idea Space so often, opportunities to meet in the real world are lacking. If the opportunity were to arise, I'd like to see you in this world too. Well...

#END CALL#

#CALL#

Sumire: Guess who? It's Sumire! Tomorrow's Kichijoji- The mall opens tomorrow, let's go together! I've got two reference numbers so I'll put them in immediately. I'll be waiting at the mall's entrance!

#END CALL#

Mother: I never thought you would grow up to become a Debugger. As your mother, why, I have to disapprove. After losing your father, if we lose you too... I want you to think it over again. In any case, take a good long rest today.

[Sleep.]

Emi: Good morning, Big bro!

Mother: Since today's a bit of rest, Emi and I are going out to Idea Space.

Emi: Yeah, let's go!

[Dive after they leave.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. Please enjoy the luxuries of Idea Space.

[Choose to travel to Kichijoji and a scene will begin once you and Sumire go to the mall.]

Sumire: Azuma! Over here, over here!

[Walk past the shops and over to the mall, only to run into your family on the way.]

Emi: Ah, Big bro! Oh, you wanted to go by yourself s-so, you lied to me?

Mother: Azuma, that child...?

Emi: Sumire-chan!

Sumire: Emi-chan...

Mother: (To Emi) Your friend?

Emi: Yup, a friend from school. But, why is Big bro with Sumire?

Sumire: Oh, um, he saved me a while back... so Azuma was Emi's brother...

Emi: Yup.

Mother: Sumire, didn't you come here with your mother or your father?

Sumire: N- Yup...

Mother: Well, since today's a pretty big deal let's all go shopping together.

Emi: Yeah! Let's go, Sumire-chan!

Sumire: ... I think I'll go home.

(Sumire tries to leave but is interrupted by none other than the Heehomeboi himself)

Jack Frost: There's *hee*-hundreds of Noise in the mall, *ho!* Can all visitors *hee*-hurriedly return via the nearest-*ho* terminal. There's hundr*hee*ds of Noise in the mall, *ho!* All visitors ple*hee*s return to the real world-*ho* via the nearest *heeho* terminal, *hohee.*

(Everyone runs away, you tell your family to leave, Mubiora and the other Debuggers arrive)

Mubiora: Azuma, thank goodness you're here. I should've already removed the Noise by now. This whole affair concerns the trust the people have in Central Administration!

Baraki: You're all here too? You guy's're our heroes, tch, we're saved!

Miranda: We've already evacuated the civilians. We need to find out where this all originates, where the Noise is coming from.

Mubiora: Now, Miranda and Azuma, the South Side! Baraki and I are responsible for the North...

Sumire: Su-Sumire? What about me?

Mubiora: Ah, you...

Baraki: Hm? You're that chick from before.

Mubiora: There's no avoiding it, now it'd be safer if you came along with us. I'll let you look after her with this in mind. (Gives Navi) You'll need this.

[With your control back, you're gonna wanna walk back to the start of Kichijoji at the place where you had the hacking tutorial. There's Noise there. Sick 'em.]

Miranda: Look, Azuma! There's Noise coming from over there!

[Bash 'em.]

(After the fight there is an onlooker looking on in the archway)

Hayashi: You guy's Chuo's Debuggers or something?

(Runs away)

Miranda: Wait!

(Miranda immediately chases after him, leaving you behind)

[With your control, run down the hallway before talking to Mubiora down the back of the screen.]

Mubiora: What is it, Azuma? Miranda? No, she didn't come by here.

[Walk towards the camera and talk to Baraki.]

Baraki: Miranda ran to the other side, man. What happened?

[Follow Baraki's hand over to the other side of the Mall and talk to Miranda, who is mulling over an entranceway into the underground.]

Miranda: I saw the man from before go down here. We have to follow him, hurry!

[Search around for the man in the underground. After a while:]

Miranda: That's funny, he doesn't seem to be anywhere... it's a dead end, why?

(The others arrive)

Mubiora: What's going on?

Miranda: We found a suspicious looking man and followed him down here, but...

Mubiora: Do you mean to say he disappeared?

Miranda: There can't be a terminal in such a place...

Mubiora: There could be one, but it'd have to be illegal access.

Baraki: Illegal access? What do you mean?

Mubiora: This dead-ended passage had been connected to another place in the past... It could be that the man shut down the connection with this side after jumping. He escaped into another place, and disappeared.

Baraki: Another place? You saying there's another Idea Space? Oi, oi, what kinda cute idea is that?

Mubiora: It's a damn fine idea to build multiple virtual spaces. We ought to contact the Director.

(Later, in the Command Centre)

Tudumi: We've been seeing a lot more spacial disturbances lately, and it seems not to be the fault of Noise.

Mubiora: Someone's toying with Idea Space. We can't rule out that someone isn't deliberately letting Noise in.

Tudumi: The situation is getting dire, but I believe I understand it well. We've been investigating hard. Please rest for today.

[Head back to a terminal and return home.]

#CALL#

Sumire: It's Sumire! It was fun with you today, Azuma. Though, I didn't know you were Emi's brother... Azuma lives in Emi-chan's house. Lucky Emi. Well, I'll see you next time we play! It's a promise! Bye-bye!

#END CALL#

#CALL#

Mubiora: Azuma, it's Mubiora. It seems that girl you were with - Sumire - hasn't returned home. With a bit of investigating, she lives in an exclusive residential area of the South District. Her father is an officer working for the Underground Tokyo Development Parliament, under the direct influence of the Central Administration Bureau. It could be that she has nothing to do while her parents are busy. Although, Azuma, as Debugger's this is not our job. Well then, if she contacts you again you must bring it to my attention. Sorry to bother you.

#END CALL#

Mother: The incident in Kichijoji was hard work. I heard in the Net News that the whole thing is unstable, and that the Noise rate is still increasing. Anyway, I'm glad you were okay. You look tired today. You deserve some sleep. Goodnight, Azuma.

[Sleep.]

#CALL#

Tudumi: Morning Azuma, I see you're awake. We have a new mission, please come to the Administration Command Centre immediately.

#END CALL#

[Dive.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. Idea Space is a wonderful place, please enjoy it.

[Travel to the Administration Command Centre in Shinjuku, before approaching the meeting.]

Tudumi: Now, I'll explain the mission. Recent damage reports from Roppongi have shown increasingly grim situations involving a juvenile, so I would like Miranda and Azuma to focus in their patrols there.

Miranda: Understood.

Baraki: Patrols? Why do you need to catch the little shit?

Tudumi: According to the damage reports, the "little shit" is not alone. It seems they've formed a group of "little shits." So to begin, I would like to know more on the intentions and realities of this group.

Miranda: As far as the reports are concerned, it seems myself alone would be sufficient for this mission. Azuma can handle the patrols in other areas.

Mubiora: Yes, indeed that seems the more efficient way to go about this.

Tudumi: Well, let's leave the final judgement to Azuma.

*Option:
(Option 1) I'll patrol alone

Tudumi: Understood. Well now, all four of you go out on your patrols. That is all.

[Patrol around the place, maybe do some grinding, but if there is no abnormality you should return home via a terminal.]

#CALL#

Baraki: Yo, Azuma. How was today? I bashed some heads in Shibuya this time. Damned shame the ladies haven't started flocking yet, always heading to those bastards who can't do nothing or anything. If a fuss were to come up, perhaps outside a mission then I could show them... but hey, I don't wanna be misunderstood. Oh and Azuma, I heard from Tudumi that we're meeting again. See ya there!

#END CALL#

#CALL#

Miranda: Azuma, it's Miranda. I appreciate your hard work today. I heard there's a new mission coming from Director Tudumi. I'm waiting at the Command Centre now.

#END CALL#

[Dive.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. Stay safe, young one.

[Meet the others at the Command Centre in Shinjuku, and talk to Tudumi.]

Tudumi: Now, let me explain your mission. A man far beyond the regulation level is running rampant in Akihabara. Head to the scene and hold the man back.

Miranda: Exceeding the regulation level? He's remodelled the program distributed by the Administration Bureau, deleting the power limiters? That's genius...

Mubiora: If that's the case then this man will be as powerful as us. So he can channel the power of Navi beyond the regulated limit?

Tudumi: Indeed.

Baraki: Is that even possible? I never knew...

Mubiora: Having the technology to remodel programs at the level of Administration is impressive enough... It's possible we're dealing with a large-scale criminal organisation.

Tudumi: Miranda, Azuma, we need you two on the site at once!

Miranda: Understood.

Baraki: Wait! Shouldn't that kinda job be left to me?

Tudumi: No, Miranda and Azuma are entrusted with this duty.

Baraki: Fu- Then what am I s'posed to do?!

Tudumi: You will patrol as usual with Mubiora.

Baraki: Tch...

Tudumi: It's best we leave the matter of Akihabara to Miranda and Azuma. Now, that is all. Hurry!

[Hurry to Akihabara and then walk to the right side of the screen for a scene to commence. A menacing man is seen standing over some crippled bodies in the alleyway.]

Miranda: (Pointing) That's him! He's using a Navi I've never seen before.

(Baraki joins them)

Miranda: Baraki! What're you doing?

Baraki: I was told to help.

Miranda: That's a lie!

Baraki: It ain't no bullshit. Besides, I'm here now. Lemme help.

Miranda: This isn't a game, it's not "playtime" Baraki! Don't act on my mission at your own twisted discretion!

Baraki: Don't be a square, I'm here to help you!

Miranda: We don't need your help! Gah, Azuma, stop that man!

[A boss fight starts against the menacing man, but isn't too difficult. Don't forget to use items if you're low. アイテム is Japanese for item. The man is defeated.]

(Baraki grabs the man's collar and yells in his face)

Baraki: Oi! How did you modify the program?! Spit it out! Vomit!

Miranda: Stop it, Baraki! He's not in a state to talk!

Baraki: Tch...

(Baraki drops the man to the ground)

Miranda: Baraki, why didn't Director Tudumi let you on this mission? Do you know the reason?

Baraki: No, do you?

Miranda: You're too bloodthirsty. This mission isn't about "bashing heads" for kicks, this is about unearthing the existence of a deeper evil lurking beneath. *That* is the main goal of this mission. So the Director removed you; you who fights only for the sake of fighting.

Baraki: I have hate in my bones, I have my reasons to fight!

Miranda: I didn't want to talk about this. You lost your father in early childhood, brought up and educated with an iron fist by your stepfather. But when you got older you couldn't stand it, you lashed out.

Baraki: And what kind of an education was that? I was beaten, I only ever returned the blows. What's so wrong with that? A child defending himself from a tyrant asshole of a stepdad...

Miranda: Indeed, your stepfather was a terrible man.

Baraki: Dammit! The hell're you saying?

Miranda: You always escaped your fears and insecurities by fighting fire against fire, violence with violence. Whatever the case, this time you feared this man deeply - even subconsciously - and found the only answer was violence. You went too far.

Baraki: I don't need your psychoanalyst bullcrap! 'Sides, the fuck you know about my past?!

Miranda: The Central Administration Bureau requires in-depth background searches on all Debuggers. It's only natural we know all about you.

Baraki: Say something else, bitch! I dare you! You'd never understand, coming from the richness of the South District all your life. Have you ever felt hungry?

Miranda: Fine, I guess it's only fair that I reveal my story too. Both my parents died when I was younger, possibly in a similar fashion to your father.

Baraki: What?

Miranda: From there I was raised by a couple, two foster parents who tried to love me as their own. It was only after they both died that I learnt they were never my real parents. Many people lost family and their homes in the nuclear explosion. Many people, like me, never got a chance to return to their former lives. Now I live alone in the *East* District. It's narcissistic to think you're the only victim, Baraki.

Baraki: That's enough. I've had enough of your preaching!

(Baraki leaves)

Miranda: Azuma, do you want to hear the rest of my story?

*Option:
(Option 1) Of course

Miranda: Please listen. I suffered very much when I learnt that I was an adopted child. I felt betrayed by the lovely couple who had been lying to me all this time. Through my suffering, I even thought it would've been better to never have known I was adopted. But I thought, and it came to

me that maybe they had forgotten long ago. Thanks to the couple I managed to have a happy childhood. I think they became more than real parents, they became family.

*Option:
(Option 1) Can I hear Mubiora's story?

Miranda: Mubiora? We may as well talk about him, it might be nice... Mubiora's father was a nuclear weapons researcher, so Mubiora hates him more than anything. "I am different than my father, I will pursue science to make people happy." He used to say that all the time. He became a Debugger, I think, because that feeling of hatred was so strong inside of him. Ah, but now isn't the time to talk. We need to regroup and fix this terrible situation! Come with me, Azuma.

(Later, in the Command Centre)

Tudumi: Miranda, Azuma, good job. We found that the name of the rampaging man was Green Bear. He used a remodelling program to limit cut our system.

Baraki: Where did he get a remodelling program?

Tudumi: The details are still being investigated, though we believe there is some kind of criminal organisation behind this. Well then, here is your reward for the mission.

Received Strength Incense
Received Magic Mirror

Tudumi: That is all.

[I recommend sorting out your items or at least using some of the incense you've collected throughout the game. When that's done, head back to the real world.]

Emi: Welcome back, Big bro!

Mother: I see you're continuing your job as a Debugger...

Emi: I tell all my friends that my Big bro is a Debugger, and they think you're so cool Big bro!

Mother: If it's truly your decision to continue, I can't stop you anymore. Just please try to stay out of trouble.

Emi: It's okay Mum, Big bro's got it covered. Now we've got Big bro to look after us!

Mother: That's right. Azuma, for the sake of your family, please succeed. Goodnight, son.

[Sleep. I recommend dreaming of calls from Tudumi. Wake up.]

#CALL#

Tudumi: You seemed pretty tired last night, Azuma. Now, I have something I want to tell you. It's urgent, so please come to the Command Centre at once.

#END CALL#

[Dive.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. Enjoy Idea Space.

[Travel to the Command Centre and approach the meeting.]

(A strange and familiar-looking man enters the room)

Miranda: Seri!

Mubiora: I can't believe you're already better!

Seri: No worries, I'm completely recovered.

(Tudumi enters)

Tudumi: As you can see, Seri is back and fully recovered. Azuma and Baraki, Miranda and Seri will continue their usual pairs.

(Miranda looks down)

Mubiora: What's wrong, Miranda?

Miranda: No, it's nothing...

Seri: I have orders coming from the Director, Miranda. Let's get to work at once.

Miranda: Y-Yes. Azuma, thank you for everything.

(Miranda salutes you before leaving with Seri)

Baraki: Hehhehehehe... Oi oi, don't let messing with chicks get in the way of the job, Azuma. Well, we know each other. We should make a good team. Again.

Mubiora: I'm looking forward to seeing what you two can bring as a team.

(Mubiora leaves)

Tudumi: For now, the others will be on special missions. Azuma, Baraki, wait at your homes for further instructions. That is all.

[Return to the real world.]

#CALL#

Miranda: Azuma, it's Miranda. Is your mission going smoothly? Seri and I have been assigned a kidnaping case in Idea Space. The stolen children have become Dolls in the real world now. I don't know what the motive is, nor do we have any idea of the culprit's identity. The consciousness embodied in Idea Space, as it is, must return to the main body... or else the kids may die. I'm sorry to be relying on you as a rookie, but if there's anything worrying you, let me know. I'll contact you again soon. Let's keep up the good work.

#END CALL#

#CALL#

Tudumi: Azuma, there's a new mission. Hurry to the Command Centre.

#END CALL#

[Dive.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. Enjoy.

[Go to the Command Centre. Talk to Tudumi.]

Tudumi: Let me explain the mission. The other day a hacker tried to steal customer data from a private club. I'm sure you all remember this.

Mubiora: Unfortunately we couldn't catch them...

Tudumi: Based on the clues you brought back from that mission I have been conducting further investigations. The criminal in question was actually part of a larger group of hackers. They call themselves Cheap Chip.

Baraki: They hacked in as a group? That's a smart way to pull off a crime. No wonder we couldn't get them all.

Mubiora: So did you arrest the group?

Tudumi: We were able to find their hideout and apprehended the two members on the inside. However, other members are still out there. We still haven't caught the group's leader, the one behind all this. I'd like to ask you all to hack into the hideout's computer. Find out where they're hiding the leader, as well as the names of other members.

Baraki: Wait a minute. Why not send the Debugger you had find the place?

Tudumi: Well... we lost him while he was hacking. Perhaps due to a strong defence program.

Baraki: Really...? How are we supposed to hack in then?

Tudumi: Indeed, this task is as dangerous as real life. It is not my intention to create more victims of this situation, so I understand if you reject the mission.

Baraki: What do you say, Azuma?

*Option:
(Option 1) Take the mission

Baraki: Hell yeah! I knew you'd come through. Director, I'm going too. Let's finish this!

Mubiora: I'll also be going. I can't let a malicious hacker go.

Tudumi: Understood. All three of you, give it your all! Head to the hideout near Shibuya's drugstore. You must be careful.

Mubiora: Yes Sir!

[Head to Shibuya via a terminal. Walk straight down the Main Street till you enter a scene with Mubiora.]

Mubiora: The criminal's hideout is in this building. The target is the Command Area in the deepest part of the Drive. In this Command Area we should find the data on all the members. It should be left behind. The enemy's defence program is quite different this time, so be careful. Let's go!

[Dive.]

Drive: Shibuya
Number of detection ports: 4
Magnetite carry-on capacity limit: 18000
Please select how much Magnetite to bring in:

[Again I recommend the maximum, but it's your choice.]

You will take in #### Magnetite, is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

Please do the initial setup.

[Sort our your parties.]

Please choose a port.

[Choose one of the locations. I recommend the first port you see.]

Is this port okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

parties can be placed to begin.

[Choose a party by pressing the button on the top left that reads 「配置」(meaning arrangements).]

Please select the party placement destination.

[Choose the place to place your party, the first option is fine.]

Magnetite is required for this, and you currently are in possession of #### Magnetite. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

[Press the bottom right button, or the one that reads 「終了」(meaning close).]

RTS will commence once you have finished. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no) Yes

[Commence. There's no fancy dialogue this time, just gameplay. So capture Areas, build nodes and get down to the lower floors. You should really experiment with what works best. Successfully finish the hack.]

Hacking Successful!

[Look at the completion screen.]

(Later at the Command Centre)

Tudumi: You three were very impressive just now. With this, we can capture the remaining members of Cheap Chip. I commend your efforts. Here is your reward for your duty.

Received Luck Incense
Received Soma

Tudumi: That is all.

[Return to the real world and you are greeted by Emi.]

Emi: Big bro, welcome back. Since there wasn't many kids in Idea Space today, the Net News told me to be careful. Emi's scared. Big bro, if anything were to happen to Emi, please help. Don't let anything happen to me.

#CALL#

Tudumi: Azuma, there's a new mission. Come here at once.

#END CALL#

[Dive.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. Enjoy Idea Space, but please take care.

[Go to the Command Centre, and talk to Tudumi.]

Tudumi: Now that Azuma's here I can explain the mission. Do you remember the man who ran amok in the streets using a remodelling program?

Baraki: You mean that "Green Bear" guy?

Tudumi: Through interrogation we managed to learn how he came across such high quality tech. The man was beat up pretty bad, but we managed to make out a name. A programmer named Miura. It seems he's infamous amongst the hacking community, a skilled programmer if ever I saw one. We've caught wind that he's using Akihabara as his base of operations. Even still, we don't know the specifics yet. So, Azuma and Baraki, I want you to seek out Miura's hideout.

Baraki: Find the hideout? What do you want us to do, walk up and down the streets list'ning in on rumours or something?

Tudumi: Indeed.

Baraki: That kinda jank work should go to Miranda.

(Silence)

Mubiora: (To Tudumi) That said, Miranda's attendance lately...

Tudumi: That's true, Miranda...

Mubiora: What do you think is wrong?

Tudumi: No, no. My thoughts are overwhelming. Please let it go. (To everyone again) Anyway, please collect information on Miura's hideout.

Baraki: Alright, old man. Say we do manage to find his hideout, can we swoop in and catch him immediately?

Tudumi: No. Probably behind Miura's back, there must be a mastermind to back up development of his illegal programs. To grasp the identity of that mastermind, I want to swim Miura.

Baraki: Tch... well this is... I guess we're going to go ask around town. C'mon Azuma, let's go.

[Go to Akihabara via a terminal. Talking to the people around here reveals little hints to where Miura is, so talk to as many as possible. From the terminal, walk as far into the background as you can until you reach the Assault Cafe. Turn down the alley across from there, and walk straight until you enter another scene.]

Baraki: We're here. Miura has gotta be hiding inside. Now, Azuma, don't be a square. I'm going in!

*Option:
(Option 2) I'll watch

Baraki: What? Don't be a puss, let's go.

[Enter the building. Miura is dead on the floor.]

Baraki: He's dead... Do you think that mastermind Mubiora spoke about was trying to shut him up? Okay man, let's investigate. (Walks around and finds a computer) There could still be information on this computer. If we hack into it, we might get some answers. C'mon!

[Dive.]

Drive: Akihabara
Number of detection ports: 3
Magnetite carry-on capacity limit: 18000
Please select how much Magnetite to bring in:

[As always I recommend the maximum, but yet again it is your choice.]

You will take in #### Magnetite, is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

Please do the initial setup.

[Sort our your parties.]

Please choose a port.

[Choose one of the locations. I recommend the first port you see.]

Is this port okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

parties can be placed to begin.

[Choose a party by pressing the button on the top left that reads 「配置」(meaning arrangements).]

Please select the party placement destination.

[Choose the place to place your party, the first option is fine.]

Magnetite is required for this, and you currently are in possession of #### Magnetite. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

[Press the bottom right button, or the one that reads 「終了」(meaning close).]

RTS will commence once you have finished. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no) Yes

[Commence. This is by far the hardest hack so far. If you haven't gotten used to the RTS gameplay at this point, then use this hack as practice. Experiment. Good luck. Win.]

Hacking Successful!

[Completion screen flashes by and you're back.]

(Miura in standing beside you)

Miura: My consciousness returned from my Drive, you wouldn't believe how easy that is to do. Nya.

Baraki: Shut up! You were dead!

Miura: I thought that I got stuck in the trap, nya.

Baraki: Don't look at me so sweetly man, it's creeping me out.

Miura: Despite your rudeness, you two seem pretty tame to be working for Chuo. Nya.

Baraki: Man, you talk like you're almighty...

Miura: I think... nya... that to release the world from all restraints and to be like me... one must use that power. The power Chuo restricts...

Baraki: Such talk... teach me how to change the programs!

Miura: You wanna know? As expected, you want more power. Nya?

Baraki: Yeah, I want it. I want more power, dammit!

Miura: Hehehe... nya...

Baraki: What're you laughing at?

Miura: You're bored of using your toys already, nya. You thought you could taste it when you became a Debugger, imagine the pleasure of using the power of your Navi without restraint - nya. So? Why don't you become well acquainted with us and see how wide the world really is... nya?

Baraki: "Us?" Is there a mastermind behind all this? What's your purpose?

Miura: To release Idea Space from suppression, nya.

Baraki: Huh?

Miura: The program I created cancels the Drive's limiters. If everyone can use their powers freely, Idea Space will be released. I want you to realise that this world is dominated by Chuo, nya.

Baraki: Okay man, you're spouting out a lotta shit without permission! Who's the mastermind behind all this?!

Miura: Gotou...

Baraki: Gotou? Gotou's the mastermind?

Miura: Gotou-sama has passed away, nya...

Baraki: Wha- are you nuts?

Miura: It was disappointing, I can tell you that. Now, I can't tell you anything else if you don't join us - nya.

Baraki: Stop it. "Nya, nya," quit that shit! I can't bear it any longer. You'll tell me what I want to know, whether I join or not. Let's go!

[Boss fight against Miura. He's the hardest one so far. Good luck. When he's defeated you are taken to the Command Centre.]

Tudumi: I was planning on interrogating Miura, watering him for answers about the mastermind. The plan is ruined!

Baraki: He spoke to us. He said Central Administration are the tyrants running Idea Space. He was going to make a program to release it. What exactly does that mean?

Tudumi: Don't tell me the shit those criminals say! Your only job is to go through the duties of a Debugger.

Baraki: I don't need this shit right now... I'm tired, I think I'll go back home and sleep.

(Baraki exits)

Tudumi: Well, here's your reward for today.

Received Kintan
Received Ikutama

Tudumi: You must be tired too. Head home and rest well.

[Go back home via a terminal.]

#CALL#

Tudumi: Azuma, it's urgent. Come to the Command Centre at once. We need to talk. It's serious.

#END CALL#

[Dive.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. As always, stay safe.

[End of chapter Two]

*Option:
(Option 1) Save
(Option 2) Load
(Option 3) Next Chapter

[Save before hitting the third button, going deeper down the rabbit hole.]

Tudumi: Is everyone here?

Mubiora: Sorry Director, Miranda is yet to arrive.

Tudumi: About that matter... has anyone seen Miranda recently?

Mubiora: What do you mean?

Tudumi: She hasn't shown up in the last few days.

Mubiora: Seri, you're her partner. Can you shed some light on the situation?

Baraki: You two were assigned the case of the missing children, right? Think you could've gotten too involved?

Seri: What do you mean?

Baraki: What if Miranda was kidnaped too?

Seri: She was with me throughout the whole investigation, that's an impossibility.

Tudumi: We should investigate, in case this is serious. Azuma and Baraki, on Seri's behalf I want you to continue the investigation of the kidnaped children.

Baraki: Absolutely. Seri, toss it.

Seri: Ah, sorry. I'll provide you with the information we have gathered thus far. Miranda and I were investigating about a certain OS.

Baraki: OS?

Seri: OS is an Operating System. When you enter a specific password on the startup screen, an invitation into the "Ring of Gaia" is displayed.

Baraki: Ring of Gaia? The same Ring of Gaia that opposed the Order of Messiah in the search for freedom? Militants of Chaos?

Seri: It could just be a mere prank... Even so, researching deeper into the cult revealed some strange activities. Some kind of ritual sacrificial offering...

Baraki: Oi, oi! You're saying the kidnaped kids were sacrificed?

Seri: The sacrifices are said to be taken to a hell-like place and pledged to the devil.

Baraki: H-Hell... *Laughs hysterically* You've been reading too much manga, right? Besides, the Ring of Gaia prolly disbanded decades ago.

Seri: Then where would you suggest the children went?

Baraki: Not to Hell!? That's just stupid. Tch, just tell us where they sell this OS thing.

Seri: There's meant to be various illegal establishments around Akihabara. Try to find them. The OS in question was called "Shadows," I think.

Baraki: Oi, Azuma. Let's go to Akiba.

Seri: I'm sorry we don't have more to give you.

[Head to Akihabara, then run towards the Assault Cafe. Run down the adjacent street until you enter a scene with Baraki playing with a vending machine.]

Baraki: Check this, it's pretty well disguised but it's actually a terminal. We can dive in from here. Let's go!

[Dive.]

Drive: Akihabara
Number of detection ports: 4
Magnetite carry-on capacity limit: 23000
Please select how much Magnetite to bring in:

[As always I recommend the maximum, but as is with everything here it is your choice.]

You will take in #### Magnetite, is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

Please do the initial setup.

[Sort our your parties.]

Please choose a port.

[Choose one of the locations. I recommend the port on the right.]

Is this port okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

parties can be placed to begin.

[Choose a party by pressing the button on the top left that reads 「配置」(meaning arrangements).]

Please select the party placement destination.

[Choose the place to place your party, the first option is fine.]

Magnetite is required for this, and you currently are in possession of #### Magnetite. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

[Press the bottom right button, or the one that reads 「終了」(meaning close).]

RTS will commence once you have finished. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no) Yes

[Commence. Baraki has something to say.]

Baraki: Huh? The Drive's adjusted to our fighting patterns so it consumes the intruder's Magnetite. There's gotta be some kinda Soft Shop around here, let's hurry up and take out the Command Area! Don't forget you're losing Magnetite, if you lose track you'll be dead in a second. Here, I'll teach you something useful in situations like this. Look!

(Baraki presses the middle button marked 「移動状態」(meaning Moving State). He then clicks the second option of 「飛行」(meaning Flight).)

Baraki: Now the moving state's changed to flying. When you're flying you can move faster than usual. There are drawbacks to flying though, as you become easy to be surprise attacked. You can turn on warnings for this by turning on 「警戒」(caution), but this'll also slow you down. I don't want to waste time on endurance so I'll be flying. While flying, Avian and Flight race Navi [鳥族、妖鳥] or any Navi of the Aerials species [飛天族] are necessary. For alert flying [警戒] you will need a Navi from the Beast species [魔獣] or a Navi from the Dragon or Snake species [竜族、竜王]. There seems to be skill routes in here, but I don't know enough about that. Now, let's get Shadows!

[Commence for real. It isn't too difficult, just treat it as all other hacks. Good luck, stranger.]

Hacking Successful!

[Receive your loot before continuing on. You enter the virtual space.]

Baraki: Oi, do you have Shadows?

Shop owner: Ah, sorry but that's discontinued now.

Baraki: Well check the inventory, I'm sure you've got a busted up version somewhere. Maybe a pirated one?

Shop owner: Man, fuck off. I'm just trying to run a business. Look, do you want me to call Central Administration?

Baraki: I think that'd be more trouble for you, running a place like this.

Shop owner: Oh, s-sorry. Shadows, right, what about it...

Baraki: Does it mean anything much to you? Do you know anything about Shadows?

Shop owner: Perhaps... do you know of the Ring of Gaia?

Baraki: Oi, what was that?

Shop owner: Nothing, forget it...

Baraki: No, no. You said something about the Ring of Gaia!?

Shop owner: Okay, just calm down man. The password is "Gotou." Once you enter that you'll get the invitation screen from the Ring of Gaia. But I'm serious, don't go messing around with this.

Baraki: Gotou? You better not be feeding us crap.

[Exits the virtual space. You are approached by a man and his Navi.]

Mysterious Man: Could it be that you two are looking for something?

Baraki: Do you know anything about Shadows? Hey, where is it?

Mysterious Man: Come with me.

[You join the man at a table in a store.]

Baraki: Are you part of the Ring of Gaia?

Mysterious Man: We are collecting the survivors of the Ring of Gaia to combat the Order of Messiah.

Baraki: Hmm...

Mysterious Man: You refer to those creatures as Noise, do you not? Do you believe them to be nothing more than a bug in the program?

Baraki: Depends, would I be wrong in believing that?

Mysterious Man: I think that if you were to join the Ring of Gaia, all would be revealed.

Baraki: You don't seem to be doubting us.

Mysterious Man: The dogs surrounding the Ring of Gaia must be removed...

Baraki: I understand. Oi, Azuma. Tell me what you think Noise is.

*Option:

(Option 3) Demons

Mysterious Man: Correct. But recently the Administration Bureau have been cracking down, soon I won't know who to trust.

Baraki: What'll we do?

Mysterious Man: My lips are sealed until I call upon you again.

[The man leaves.]

Baraki: What was that all about? The guy just up and left. Must've been your stupid ass answer. But that's not what's bothering me; if that man was really from the Ring of Gaia, would he really be walking around Idea Space talking to just about anybody? In any case, let's head back and report.

[Go to the Command Centre and approach Tudumi and Mubiora for a scene.]

Tudumi: Ring of Gaia missionaries in Idea Space?

Mubiora: The Ring of Gaia causes chaos. It's said that they are a religious group. Director, if those madmen aren't dealt with soon I fear chaos will reign down on Idea Space. Respectfully sir, make the call.

(Feris enters)

Feris: Wait.

(The others salute Feris as she walks forward)

Feris: It was probably believers of the end that contacted Baraki and Azuma. There is no point in arresting such a man.

Tudumi: With all due respect President, I believe that's all the more reason to squash him. Even if he's an extremist, he's bound to know more than we do.

Feris: Exactly, so I would like to conduct a secret investigation.

Mubiora: If that's the case, I can infiltrate the Ring of Gaia for you.

Tudumi: You are already busy investigating Miranda's disappearance, you can't tackle too much at once. I want to send Baraki and Azuma on this mission.

Baraki: Newer faces aren't as ugly, right?

Tudumi: I will be looking into the missionary activities of the Ring of Gaia. I assume there's an extensive line of them out there. Very well. For your investigation to be truly undercover, refrain from contacting the Administration Bureau.

Baraki: For real? (To Azuma) Okay, I'll head back and wait for that bastard to contact us. Hey Azuma, I don't know what'll happen from now on. So try to keep up!

[Everyone leaves and you regain control. Return to the real world via a terminal.]

#CALL#

Baraki: Azuma, he's contacted us. We'll be meeting at the site of Tokyo Tower. I'm heading there now, so I'll be waiting.

#END CALL#

[You now have two options on the screen. Press the bottom one, which says 「待ち合せ場所」 (or Meeting Location). You appear in a rubbled ruin. Real world Baraki and the man are already waiting there in tattered real world clothing.]

Baraki: Great, we're all here. What do we gotta do?

Mysterious Man: You must bring a sacrifice. Then, and only then, will you be trusted.

Baraki: A sacrifice?

Mysterious Man: Think of it as an entrance exam into the Ring of Gaia. However, the sacrifice must be a child.

Baraki: A child sacrifice? Why?

Mysterious Man: Do you want to be trusted? Then don't say a word and do as I tell you.

Baraki: Tch, understood. Azuma, you can head home now. I'll call you later.

[You return home.]

Mother: Oh, you're back. You seem so busy lately, don't exhaust yourself. If you become like your father...

Emi: Oh yeah, from now on Big bro and I need to make sure Mum is always happy!

#CALL#

Baraki: About that talk about child sacrifices, I'm thinking we should bring Sumire. It could get real dangerous, but I can't think of an alternative. What'd'ya say?

*Option:
(Option 1) Agree with Baraki

Baraki: Great, the meeting place is still the site of Tokyo Tower. I'll bring Sumire, be there soon.

#END CALL#

[You go to the meeting place.]

Sumire: Ah, Azuma! Where're we going to play?

Baraki: A good place. Get excited.

Mysterious Man: We'll use a terminal, follow me.

(As your group are teleported away, the wasted landscape of Tokyo after the blast is visible as far as the eye can see. Humanity has come so far, yet fallen so low. You appear up in the insides of a vessel of sorts)

Mysterious Man: Welcome, this is a branch of the Ring of Gaia. We're currently inside an old submarine that was made to withstand the most terrible of disasters.

Baraki: It's damn impressive...

Mysterious Man: The headquarters is located several kilometres east of here.

Baraki: Headquarters?

Mysterious Man: There is actually no connection between the underground city governed by the Central Administration Bureau and the underground city belonging to the Ring of Gaia. Because of this, the Archbishop of Gaia has sent out missionary groups into Idea Space.

Baraki: Are you serious? This is something else...

Mysterious Man: Do you understand? You will send the girl's consciousness to the Ring of Gaia's virtual space.

Baraki: Wait, wait. We send her consciousness across, then what happens?

Mysterious Man: Do you believe in the existence of demons?

Baraki: D-Demons?

Mysterious Man: Those things you call "Navi" in your program are nothing more than demons...

Baraki: No, that's stupid. Hey!? The hell has this got to do with what I have to do to Sumire?

Mysterious Man: You will understand soon enough... Come with me.

(You enter the Terminal Room. Miranda is unconscious and strapped to one of the many terminals crowding the room)

Sumire: Huh?

Baraki: Tch...!

Mysterious Man: That's a Debugger I caught recently.

Baraki: Debugger- is she Central Administration? How did you...?

Mysterious Man: That's a secret. Now, let us dive into the Gaian virtual space.

(You enter the virtual space, now standing in a lavish and well-lit room. Seri turns around to greet you)

Baraki: Seri?

Mysterious Man: I deceived them well, sir. Just like the others...

Seri: I heard there were two Debuggers impersonating Gaians. You know, it's not all that uncommon to find that your friends aren't who they say they are.

Baraki: Bastard, you betrayed us! You were the one who kidnaped Miranda!

Seri: She was a good partner, but she knew too much. It sure was lucky she got assigned the kidnaping case with me.

Baraki: Did you organise the invitation and everything? All the information you gave us at the beginning, that was all leading to this?

Seri: I merely planted the seed. You see, it is our job to hunt down those who oppose the Ring of Gaia. We sweep them under the rug before they can go too deep. Now, die for me!

[Boss fight against Seri. Fight all the enemies that come your way, and be careful. This is the hardest and longest fight so far. Good luck. Defeat Seri.]

Baraki: We did it! Damned bastard was tough.

(Mubiora dives into the virtual space)

Mubiora: Is everyone alright?

Baraki: How the hell'd you get here? No, not you too!?

Mubiora: Calm down! I was told to follow you guys from the start. Return to the submarine. We've apprehended what's left of Seri and the others in the real world.

Baraki: Really?

Mubiora: Is that the little girl from before?

Baraki: Don't worry, we got permission to use her as bait. It all turned out fine, right Sumire?

Mubiora: I'd prefer you didn't involve juveniles in this kind of case. Baraki, take her back to her home.

Sumire: No! I wanna stay with Azuma!

Baraki: C'mon, don't be selfish! (To Mubiora) Dammit, what'll you do?

Mubiora: I'll find Miranda. Her consciousness is bound to be somewhere in this Idea Space. Take yourself and the juvenile back to the real world. Azuma and I will continue from here.

[The others leave and you are left with Mubiora. Walk through the door. Following down the next corridor and up the next stairway you see, you'll come to the Ring of Gaia's massive virtual space. It's dark and reminiscent of a Japanese marketplace. The people around you praise the one they're in and hate on Central Administration. There are a few people selling items around this first area, and I have no doubt that you're drowning in Macca now so buy yourself something nice. Walking onwards to the next screen reveals another store and to the left a new Demon Fusion chamber. Feel free to fuse any demons you have stacked up. Walk past here to enter a new scene after stocking up on items.]

Mubiora: That statue...

(You approach the statue)

Mubiora: This man...

(Another man approaches)

Wise Man: He spread the word of Gaia to achieve the ideal world. The Administration Bureau is based in Shinjuku now, correct? Long ago Shinjuku was ruled by Gotou-sama.

Mubiora: Gotou? Gotou-sama? Is that statue Gotou?

Wise Man: You two must be new here. Though, you seem more ignorant than the average newcomer.

Mubiora: Can you explain this to me in detail?

Wise Man: Do you know what happened before mankind was forced to live in the underground?

Mubiora: Of course, use of nuclear weapons by the US military... It was a great tragedy that will remain a stain on the history of mankind for all eternity.

Wise Man: Yes, but why was the ICBM launched? What was the reason? The launch was issued by ambassador Thorman, supposedly due to a planned dictatorship. So why did the Americans turn nuclear to Japan?

Mubiora: I'm guessing it's got something to do with Gotou.

Wise Man: Gotou opposed Thorman, stood up against him. He needed the power of demons to create his ideal world. America - fearing that great power - reacted with nuclear force. Tokyo was buried along with the demons.

Mubiora: That's what happened to Tokyo... I've never heard such a story come from Administration.

Wise Man: Of course not. In the end the Central Administration Bureau became the rulers, and have since grown fearsome of any information that would spawn distrust amongst users. All was well and ignorant until demons started appearing in your recreation of Tokyo. We are trying to maintain the regime.

Mubiora: Wait a second. You're not just talking about Noise, are you?

Wise Man: That which stands beside you, that of which you call "Navi." As long as there are humans the existence of demons is unavoidable. Everyone has darkness in their hearts.

Mubiora: Navi are demons... Why is it that they only appear in Idea Space?

Wise Man: Idea Space is home to the desires of mankind. Demons appear in search of such. Coexistence with demons is necessary for the survival and evolution of mankind. That is why we oppose the Administration Bureau, those of which wish to hide and sugarcoat the facts. We're sending ferocious demons to Idea Space.

Mubiora: You're the cause of all the Noise lately...?

Wise Man: We survived the blast and have taken the reins from Gotou-sama. If you plan on joining the Ring of Gaia, you'd best accept the truth as soon as possible.

[The man leaves and you are given back control. Walk left past the statue of Gotou and down the following pathway. There are a few more shops and a place to exchange Macca for Magnetite. The latter is highly necessary; always keep up your Magnetite. When you are content, walk through to the temple at the end of the pathway. Once inside, walk straight ahead till a scene starts.]

(A scream is heard)

Mubiora: That's Miranda!

(You run ahead and enter a sacrificial room, with Miranda laid out on an altar)

Mubiora: What kind of sick ceremony is this? Mu-...

Hayashi: *Laughs maniacally* There's a face I remember. You mustn't come any further.

Mubiora: Give us back Miranda!

Hayashi: You can not take her, she is such a perfect sacrifice. She is yet to be sent to The Expanse.

Mubiora: The Expanse? Creating a virtual space besides Idea Space is illegal!

Hayashi: Illegal? That's alright, there are no rules here!

[Fight against Hayashi, good luck. Defeat him. After his fight you are surrounded by other cultists.]

Believers: You can't disrupt our plans. Now die!

[Fight against the cultists, there's many of them so be careful. Just as the last of them fall the ritual is complete and Miranda's consciousness is sucked down into the ground as a Gate opens beneath the altar. Azuma and Mubiora follow her, diving deep, deep into the abyss just before the Gate closes behind them. They awake in a strange hell-like plane.]

Mubiora: Where- Where is this place?

Kerberos: I see our paths have crossed again. It isn't usual to see humans fall into The Expense.

Mubiora: The Expense...? A man named Hayashi was saying the same thing... Aren't you Seri's Navi?

Kerberos: Originally The Expense was the Soul World. Yet walking here is you two, the embodiment of the same consciousness you use to walk through Idea Space. You were able to enter The Expense, I'm impressed.

Mubiora: What purpose was these programs made to serve? How can someone explain this?

Kerberos: Look around in your ignorance. The Expense is no place for humans. No, you came here in search of the woman in Gehenna.

Mubiora: Woman? Y-Yes, Miranda.

Kerberos: I understand all that exists in The Expense, and I don't think you can survive...

[Kerberos runs off into the distance and you are left alone with Mubiora. Walk straight ahead until you come to a circular doorway in the next screen. You should be in a room full of demons. A lot of them will sell you some good items and gear, all pointing out that you don't belong. You're in demon country now. You can get some more Magnetite before exiting the building and walking down the pathway near the hole you entered to get to the shops. You are at the entrance to Gehenna Castle - a black and towering behemoth - and you should be able to enter through the

archway on the right. This is the perfect place to grind for demons, so communicate with as many as you can to get some. Proceed through the dungeon and further down until you get to a doorway leading to Miranda hanging with her arms outstretched tied between two pillars.]

Mubiora: Miranda! (A demon appears) Tch...

Moloch: Humans... Did you forget our contract?

Mubiora: And you are?

Moloch: My name is Moloch. I feed on souls. Give me your children.

Mubiora: Children? Perhaps the children the Ring of Gaia have been kidnaping were for this monster?

Moloch: The harbinger of my hands, forsaken me with triumph. Give unto me thy children, for chaos to reign.

[Fight against Moloch. Once you prevail, the scene continues.]

(Mubiora helps Miranda down)

Mubiora: Miranda... Miranda!

Miranda: Uh...

Mubiora: Open your eyes Miranda!

Miranda: Wha- What happened?

Mubiora: Miranda, is the talk of this place being The Expense true? Is this not just a virtual space created by the Ring of Gaia?

Miranda: The Expense? I was brought here by demons... I can't believe it, but this place has to be...

Mubiora: The situation is only getting stranger.

Miranda: I don't understand, what's going on?

Mubiora: If Navi are demons then the Central Administration Bureau that have hidden it all this time would...

Miranda: Do you think we can return to Idea Space from here?

Mubiora: Yes, let's try that first. That's a good place to start.

[Make your way back to the place where you were first greeted by Kerberos, feeling free to stop by for supplies from the demons.]

Mubiora: There's gotta be a Gate around here somewhere. How are we supposed to get back?

Miranda: Don't fret, we know there's a way. We got here easily enough, so there has to be a way back. It's only a matter of finding the right clues. Let's head back to the town area we passed and ask around.

[Walk back in that direction until you meet Kerberos.]

Kerberos: I see you are still alive. Consider me impressed.

Mubiora: Teach us, please. How do we get back to Idea Space?

Kerberos: *Stares off* It seems there is a Gate beyond this canyon.

Miranda: Is crossing it such an easy task?

Kerberos: You humans live and grow. You have survived up until now using the power of the devil. Know what I say is the truth.

(Kerberos leaves)

Mubiora: "The power of the devil?" What does he mean by that?

Miranda: He could be referring to our Navi. After all, they're only demons.

Mubiora: We need to go and look for more clues.

[Enter the hole again and talk to the short blue demon at the centre back of the room. Another demon walks in as you do so.]

Rakshasa: I've been looking for you. You're the ones who defeated Moloch, yes? Part of Gehenna caught aflame. Hellfire spread rapidly from Moloch's death.

Mubiora: He was a killer of children, that cannot be forgiven.

Rakshasa: It is unbelievable that mere humans could bring about the downfall of the great Moloch. Show me your power, prove it to me.

Miranda: We haven't come to fight.

Rakshasa: Whether my karma rises or falls, if you do not cooperate you will see yourselves to a long and painful death.

[Fight with Rakshasa. This is actually a pretty long fight, so good luck. Defeat him.]

Rakshasa: Those who control my fate and count my karma must know you are merely human. Fu... I cannot comprehend... you...

[Rakshasa falls down and dies. Once you have control back you should buy some more items and talk to the demons around you. Now they compliment you for your victory and think of you in a better light. Walk outside for another scene.]

(You are approached by a pretty demon)

Abel: It seems now that *people* control Rakshasa's karma.

Mubiora: Karma?

Abel: Rakshasa was looking for someone who could defeat him. That ultimately led him to his fate.

Miranda: Fate? If that was his goal, then his fate was inevitable?

Abel: Nobody knows all the details. Some say that in a past life he worshipped karma, and that he became obsessed with changing his own. Perhaps to reconcile a sin greater than himself.

Mubiora: And you?

Abel: My name is Abel. And you're the ones who defeated Moloch, right?

Miranda: If you're looking for a fight, we won't hold back.

Abel: Don't get me wrong. I would like to borrow your strength.

Mubiora: Our strength?

Abel: You want to cross the canyon, yes? If he still had his powers...

Miranda: You'll help us cross the canyon?

Abel: M-My husband can lend you his power, I'm sure of it.

Mubiora: So what do you want us to do?

Abel: There is another demon bastard in Gehenna Castle besides Moloch. Her name is Morrigan, a witch cursing my husband Cu Chulainn.

[Mythologically the wife of Cu Chulainn was the lady Emer, but this game has her written as Abel.]

(She opens the door to the other side of Gehenna Castle)

Mubiora: Cu Chulainn declined the courtship of Morrigan and was put under a curse. I don't know how much we will be able to do.

Abel: I've unlocked the door for you, but I too can only do so much. Even so, you must save my husband.

Miranda: Distorted love can lead to hate. Let's go find Morrigan.

[Walk through the door and into Gehenna once more, now the left side. Explore the dungeon and keep on getting higher until you reach Morrigan's Throne Room. Morrigan steps down in front of you.]

Morrigan: I assume you were sent by Abel, humans...

Mubiora: Why is that?

Morrigan: Who dares come under the wicked and feared witch of flight Morrigan?!

Mubiora: Sorry, but it's a pretty short story on our part. We'd like you to undo the curse you've placed on Cu Chulainn.

Morrigan: Do you really think mere humans could defeat me? How sweet.

Miranda: Wait, we don't want to fight you. I understand how you feel, I have the same feeling of love for someone that cannot be achieved. A forbidden love... You must understand, your love is wrong.

Morrigan: In my life, I say do whatever makes you smile! You'll see I'm quite a stubborn woman.

[Fight against Morrigan. She's not much harder than Moloch, but do your best. Defeat her.]

Morrigan: Tch, I underestimated you humans. Land the final blow and the curse will be lifted.

Miranda: Why would you put a curse on him? You say that you loved Cu Chulainn so much but you-

Morrigan: Shut up! This is the only way for a warrior to die. Finish me off!

*Option:
(Option 2) Let her live

Morrigan: You're going to let me live? If you don't kill me the curse will never be broken! (Cu Chulainn appears) Cu Chulainn, have you come to scoff at my filth?

Miranda: You're Cu Chulainn?

Cu Chulainn: Thank you, human. Morrigan, even if you don't unravel the curse that you've placed on my power, I will still appreciate your love.

Morrigan: What are you plotting? Why me?

Cu Chulainn: I'm not plotting anything. I realised from being robbed of my ability that without wasteful power I have no violent ambition. I will continue to live peacefully with Abel. If I had my ability like before, I'm certain it could never be the same.

Morrigan: You speak the words of the Cu Chulainn that I loved. This is all I've desired...

Cu Chulainn: You are the one that opened my eyes, Morrigan.

Morrigan: Don't be so... The man I love mustn't lose his ambition, no matter the cost...

(Morrigan breaks the curse)

Cu Chulainn: Morrigan...

(Later, outside)

Miranda: "Without wasteful power, I have no violent ambition." I feel like we've learnt something from your words.

Abel: As promised we will help you across the canyon.

(Morrigan flies down)

Morrigan: I will undertake that duty.

Mubiora: You... how did you...?

Morrigan: I'll do whatever I can to help, demons can be so fickle these days.

Cu Chulainn: I appreciate it, Morrigan.

Morrigan: Don't mention it. (To Azuma) Are you ready?

Abel: Be careful going over the canyon.

Cu Chulainn: I pray for your safety.

Morrigan: (Holding Mubiora) First person, let's go.

(Morrigan flies everyone across the canyon)

Mubiora: Thank you for helping us, Morrigan.

Morrigan: Think nothing of it, I didn't do it for you.

Miranda: So you still have feelings for...

Morrigan: Don't say such things. It's unnecessary. Beyond this point, travel with severe caution.

(Morrigan flies away)

Miranda: Thank you, Morrigan.

Mubiora: Alright, let's head for the Gate.

[Walk straight down the path.]

Miranda: What's that big wall of ice?

Mubiora: Let's go, Azuma.

(They approach the wall of ice)

Mubiora: Th-This overpowering feeling...?

(A man runs towards you)

Worried Man: Stay away from there! Although it may not look like it, that thing can kill you in an instant!

Miranda: Who are you?

Worried Man: Can you feel the sorrow and darkness coming from this perpetual wall? I am an angel that sealed away a demon in this monolith of ice, using the power of God.

Mubiora: Angel?

Worried Man: Ah, through this never-ending fight against demons I have lost most of my power. To my despair I have taken the form of a human. Now, are you looking for the Gate? It's just beyond here.

Mubiora: Just beyond here? Let's go!

Worried Man: We should probably hurry. Its power is waning and it could close any second now.

Miranda: Thank you.

Worried Man: My name is Shiki. You can call me that from now on.

Miranda: Thank you, Shiki. Now, let's hurry to the Gate!

(They run for the Gate)

Shiki: Look, over there!

Mubiora: C'mon! Azuma, Miranda! Let's go! We can return to Idea Space from here.

(Everyone runs through the Gate)

[End of chapter Three]

*Option:
(Option 1) Save
(Option 2) Load
(Option 3) Next Chapter

[Save and gear up for the next chapter. Keep on keeping on.]

(Your group arrives in Idea Space, though Shiki has disappeared)

Mubiora: I think we made it.

Miranda: Okay, let's use that terminal to get back to the real world. (Walks over) That's funny, we can't return from here.

Mubiora: Baraki should be watching over the main building, the Command Centre.

Miranda: Something happened while we were in The Expense, I know it.

Mubiora: Let's just look around and figure out what's going on.

[Run down the street and talk to as many people as you can. They are all saying some pretty strange things, but you're going to walk into the Flower Shop that is around the halfway point of that street you're on. It's marked 「フラーワショップ」. Talk to the woman inside.]

Cute Girl: Please, take this.

Received Seed of Sophia

Cute Girl: I am sure this will help you one day.

(You walk outside and meet the others)

Mubiora: Azuma, there's a lot of commotion around the Central Administration Bureau's main building.

Miranda: We shouldn't waste time talking, let's go.

[Hurry down to the main building, noticing now people on the street are mentioning the Order of Messiah. You arrive outside the Command Centre to find a crowd of people who have gathered there to watch a man be crucified.]

Feris: This man comes from the Ring of Gaia; he is the catalyst that has spread Noise across our Idea Space. People of True Tokyo, understand the error of this man's ways. A pagan, foolish path walked by infidels that threaten our peaceful lives!

Mubiora: That man... is that Baraki?

(For the first time in the game Baraki is wearing different clothes, hanging from a cross)

Miranda: Why's the President got Baraki up there...? Azuma, we've got to help him!

(You tear through the crowd and confront Feris)

Feris: You... You certainly seem to have survived.

Mubiora: What are you doing, President Feris?

Feris: (Snaps her fingers and two guards run to her side) These are your replacements as Debuggers. Idea Space's Idea Angels!

Mubiora: Idea Angels? Explain yourself, Miss President! I don't understand...

Feris: The Debuggers certainly put up a good fight. Now, enjoy eternity.

(Feris starts to leave)

Miranda: Wait!

[Fight against the Idea Angels. Defeat them.]

Miranda: Baraki, hang in there!

Baraki: This place...

Miranda: Baraki, you need to tell us what happened. And what are you wearing?

Baraki: M-Miranda? Are you guys really here?

Miranda: Listen to me Baraki, what happened?

Mubiora: If you're done talking for now I suggest we move this elsewhere.

(You move it elsewhere, now outside the terminal where you crowd around Baraki)

Mubiora: Cold sleep? Keeping our bodies connected to the computers... do you mean that we're in such a state?

Baraki: Ten years gone by, wouldn't be surprised if you rot...

Miranda: Ten years? What do you mean?

Baraki: Tch, forget it. So this talk about Navi being demons is true?

Mubiora: It's still so hard to believe...

Baraki: Anyway, wait a sec. I'll go get you out of your cold state.

(Baraki leaves via the terminal)

Mubiora: Dammit, what happened here?

Miranda: The people around Idea Space seem the same, but...

Baraki: (From outside) Okay, it's all ready. Come back to the real world via the terminal.

[Do as the man says, arriving back at the submarine.]

Baraki: For the past ten years your consciousness has been stuck in a constant dive into The Expense. I know it's hard to believe, but you don't have any other choice.

Mubiora: Ten years? What're you saying?

Baraki: It's been ten years since you dived into the Ring of Gaia's virtual space.

Mubiora: What? Ten years have gone by...

Baraki: That's right.

Mubiora: Wh- How the hell am I supposed to believe that?

Baraki: Look at me! Look how I've changed; I'm older, my body...

Miranda: H-He's right. But, if you've changed, how come I don't feel a thing?

Baraki: You've been asleep for ten years, any pain is impossible at this point. In cold sleep your body is looked after by the terminal, so your cells shouldn't have aged a day.

Mubiora: But, but... we couldn't have been in The Expense for *over* a day!

Baraki: Time works differently in The Expense then it does here.

Miranda: It's like Urashima Tarou...

Baraki: Exactly. We are currently at the bottom of the ocean, so I guess you could call this facility "Dragon Palace."

Miranda: What a second! Bottom of the... if this is some kind of sick joke, stop it now!

Baraki: If you don't believe me, just take a look outside. Ten years ago a flood destroyed the underground city. Luckily we were already here, inside this submarine. It was "made to withstand the most terrible of disasters," remember? Granted it isn't as strong as it used to be now...

Miranda: You're lying... Azuma, come with me. Let's check this out.

(Outside you lay witness to a flooded world, with the remnants of the underground city completely destroyed. A faint shimmer of a reflection of the sun can be made out miles above the submarine. All you knew is gone)

Miranda: This is... this truly is the real world...

(Stephen enters, a strange man in a wheelchair)

Stephen: I see you've awakened from the cold sleep.

Mubiora: Who is he?

Baraki: When the flood happened, Stephen appeared through that terminal.

Stephen: I'm glad that you're safe.

Baraki: He says he’s a scientist that made a demon summoning program long ago.

Stephen: In this new era, the destiny of mankind is in the hands of the demons; though it is the human's will that will ultimately form it. A strong intent to overcome the demons will be the force to change destiny. Do not forget that.

Mubiora: You seem to know a lot. Why is this facility here?

Stephen: Only give me credit where credit's due. I know little of this place, I merely dropped by because the terminal was active. Well then...

(Stephen leaves)

Miranda: Where did Mr Stephen come from?

Baraki: He's quiet on such topics. These days the only places to go to are in the above sea city. That's really the only place anyone can live.

Mubiora: A city above the sea!?

Baraki: It seems to have been built using floating islands. Residents call it "True Tokyo." Of course, that's where Chuo hides these days.

Mubiora: Chuo? The Central Administration Bureau?

Baraki: Indeed.

Miranda: When was such a place built?

Baraki: Hm, it was already finished by the time we got out. Generally people can only get here from there, and we can only get there from here.

Miranda: Well then, can we go outside? I'd assume there's no more worry about radiation.

Baraki: 40 years have passed since the ICBM fell. Besides, the flood washed nearly everything away.

Miranda: I'd like to see this floating city with my own eyes, I'd like to see how far we've come.

Baraki: Don't get too gaudy. If that's what you want, you can get there through Idea Space.

Miranda: Understood. Azuma, Mubiora, let's go to the city above the ocean.

(The three of you go together. It's a miraculous sight, with futuristic buildings all around. The skies, finally, are blue)

Miranda: The city above the ocean, True Tokyo. This is the first time I've ever breathed the outside air.

Mubiora: It's unbelievable... is this really the real world?

Miranda: I... I'm going to go look around the city.

(Miranda leaves)

Mubiora: We should have a look around too. Azuma, I'll see you later.

[Press the button on the side of the screen that says 「移動」meaning "move." Press the first option 「オフィス街」meaning "Office Street." You'll be greeted by Miranda.]

Miranda: Azuma, you're also having a look around. Look! The clothes, the buildings, everything is different now! It's nothing like the underground city. What's going on...?

[Press the "move" button again and select 「工場地帯」meaning "Industrial Area." You are greeted by Mubiora.]

Mubiora: You came. If we walked around here in our underground clothes people would think we were crazy. Azuma, it might be dangerous to act boldly without fully understanding the situation.

[Press the "move" button one last time and select 「住宅街」meaning "Residential Area."]

Sumire: Azuma? Azuma! I missed you! I got in contact with Baraki, your consciousness returned from The Expense! Remember me? It's Sumire! I heard you'd be here so I came up to the Residential Area. I knew my family would be looking for me too, so I've been hiding about. Do you recognise me? I'm a lot older now, I'm a woman. We'd better head back though, Chuo marks all attendees pretty strictly.

(Back in the submarine, "Dragon Palace")

Baraki: Do you have anything to report?

Sumire: As usual, no one remembers life in the underground city.

Mubiora: Why? Why have they forgotten?

Baraki: That's not all... I saw an acquaintance recently who hadn't aged a day in ten years.

Sumire: It seems that no one has changed from before the Great Flood.

Baraki: We are completely isolated...

Sumire: I don't mind so much, I didn’t get along with other people all that well anyway.

Baraki: This man, my acquaintance, if I could see him in Idea Space I would see a completely different person. I'd see him cheating on his wife and abandoning his children.

Sumire: He's not the only one. Everyone is filthy in the virtual world.

Mubiora: Hey! That's ruining the whole point of Idea Space. It's an ideal world, not an escape to your animal desires.

Sumire: What can we do? Even if the body stays the same, the heart is always rotten!

Mubiora: Perhaps you can't accept the adult world.

Sumire: I'm not a child!

Mubiora: I- I'm sorry, I only wanted to say that it was pure. A wholesome place for all people.

Sumire: So what'll we do?

Baraki: We can show people photos of the past, see if they remember.

Mubiora: No, that'd seem synthetic. It's easy enough to fake photos. The best way to make people remember would be to visit the President and Director directly, have them tell everyone the facts.

Baraki: Are you joking?! I was almost killed by them! You'd have to burn the world to a crisp before you could get them to talk!

Mubiora: Think, Baraki. Think calmly. There must be a way to sway the President...

Baraki: No, don't hesitate! I'm all ears.

Mubiora: I'll go check.

Baraki: Fine, do it your way!

(You are left with Sumire)

Sumire: Hey, Azuma. There's something I want to check out. Actually, I saw my father enter a strange building in Ikebukuro. But when I went to enter, the door was locked. I have to see what's inside. Okay Azuma, let's go to Ikebukuro.

[Dive.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. Have fun in Idea Space.

[Go to Ikebukuro. Walk around and investigate the town until you find a door with "L'Z" in flashy neon above it. It's good to note that everyone around this area has some pretty cool things to say and opinions about the Ring of Gaia. You enter a scene upon arriving at the door.]

Sumire: It's this door, Azuma. There's a terminal near here, you can hack in through there.

[Dive.]

Drive: Ikebukuro
Number of detection ports: 5
Magnetite carry-on capacity limit: 23000
Please select how much Magnetite to bring in:

[I'd say do the maximum, but it's your choice.]

You will take in #### Magnetite, is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

Please do the initial setup.

[Sort our your parties.]

Please choose a port.

[Choose one of the locations. The first one shown is decent.]

Is this port okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

parties can be placed to begin.

[Press the bottom right button, or the one that reads 「終了」(meaning close).]

RTS will commence once you have finished. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no) Yes

[Commence.]

Sumire: Kya-! What? What's going on?

Miranda: Sumire? Are you alright?

Sumire: Miranda?! How are you here?

Miranda: I was interested... anyway, why are you hacking?

Sumire: I can't say now...

Miranda: Oh, okay. If that is the case then I shan't pry. But, could you please wait a minute?

(Trap Areas appear)

Sumire: What! There's so many Trap Areas!

Miranda: From this side I forced your floor map to recognise Trap Areas. In hacking, it is dangerous to only believe what you see. Trap Areas can be avoided even without setting them off if you use a Canceller. You can cancel the traps without touching them. If you have the skill Disarmer, you can cancel the traps without knowing where they are. If you don't have either of those skills but you have discovered the Trap Areas, you can use 「隼の眼界」(meaning "Falcon Eyes") and 「鷹の眠界」(meaning "Hawk Eyes") to reduce the chance of them activating by 20%. I don't know what you're up to, but keep Azuma safe.

Sumire: Understood! Azuma, proceed with caution!!

[Take control and win the hack.]

Hacking Successful!

[View the completion screen and get back in the game. Walk a few steps ahead after entering the building and a scene begins. It's a sickly looking bar with several people laid out and relaxed on leather couches.]

Sumire's Father: Who goes there? I haven't seen that child around here before. What is your name, my dear?

Sumire: I didn't want to believe it, but this...

Sumire's Father: Hurry over here, child.

Sumire: You forgot your own daughter's face, because I've gotten bigger. I'm the only thing that's changed in your eyes... that'll be right, you're always saying how busy work is. You think you can sloth around because you've never been caught. But I've found you now, imagine what Mum would think! It was never your job's fault that you wouldn't come home at...

(Sumire's Mother steps out from the bathroom)

Sumire: Mum?!

Sumire's Mother: Mum? It's been ages since I've heard that... you know, you look a bit like my daughter Sumire. You have her eyes and, well, my lips. She died many years ago.

Sumire: Died?! I'm still alive! I-I'm Sumire!

Sumire's Mother: I understand. You're like the ones they spread rumours about; a Life Ghost.

Sumire: Life Ghost? Are you saying I'm only a virtual human? That I'm not real?

Sumire's Father: I don't care who you are. This is Idea Space, have some fun!

Sumire's Mother: That's right! (Approaches Azuma) Okay, I'm with this one...

Sumire: Mum, what are you...?

Sumire's Mother: Hmm, he's a cutie, isn't he? Is he your boyfriend?

Sumire: N-No! M-Mum, stop it!

Sumire's Father: (Walking to Sumire) Alright, come here. Let's have some fun.

Sumire: Don't touch me!

(Sumire shoves him away)

Sumire's Father: W-What are you doing?

Sumire: Dirty... You and Mum are f-filthy rats!

(Sumire runs away)

[Go to the door nearby the entrance that Sumire ran through and you enter a dungeon. Definitely pick up some demons here and then on the 10th floor you will find a door. Enter into a fancy office and a scene begins. The bar's female manager is closing in on Sumire as you step in.]

Manager: You came, welcome to the world of desire...

Sumire: Azuma!

(The manager turns into Succubus)

Sumire: You're a demon?

Succubus: Idea Space is dripping with lustful desires. This "Ikebukuro" attracts all the right energy for me.

Sumire: Energy?

Succubus: Mmm, you two look like you'd fit right in here. Give yourselves up to the flow of this place.

Sumire: Azuma and I aren't like those filthy people!

Succubus: *Laughs sensuously* Be honest, what do you think of him? Deep inside your heart I can feel longing...

Sumire: T-That's bullshit! I like Azuma, but that's it. What you're saying is... Azuma, kill her! Kill that demon bitch!

Succubus: Come here, you pretty slut!

[Fight against Succubus. She's pretty tough, but you can do it. Defeat her.]

Sumire: Azuma, thanks for coming with me. We- I think we make a good team...

[End of chapter Four]

*Option:
(Option 1) Save
(Option 2) Load
(Option 3) Next Chapter

[Save and get ready, shit's about to get heavy.]

(Back inside Dragon Palace)

Miranda: Sumire, have you heard anything about Life Ghosts?

Sumire: They're supposed to be virtual humans made by the program.

Miranda: Virtual humans? I never heard about such a thing in the underground city.

Sumire: It's a recent occurrence. There seem to be many virtual people in Idea Space that can’t be distinguished from actual users, and that don’t have real world counterparts.

Miranda: Azuma, is there any information about Life Ghosts in the Net News?

#NET NEWS#

The group of anti-Administration followers of the Ring of Gaia have increased their extremism as three men and woman were caught this week attempting to sabotage the Messian

reconstruction of Harajuku Takeshita street. Authorities suspect that the trio were destroying data in the system by hacking into multiple locations at once. The culprits are still denying all charges.

#END NET NEWS#

Miranda: Even after ten years the Ring is still... Say, Azuma, what do you think of the behaviour of the Gaians?

*Option:
(Option 1) They aren't in the wrong

Miranda: I feared you'd say something along those lines. It's strange how it was before. Please, don't go telling me to follow that *cult.* I'm worried about you.

#CALL#

Baraki: Azuma, come to the 「ポプラ」(Poplar) coffee shop in Akihabara. I want to talk.

#END CALL#

Sumire: Hm? He's not on the submarine? He must've dived into Idea Space a while ago, I haven't seen him around here.

Miranda: I feel something unpleasant is about to happen. Azuma, be careful.

[Dive.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. As usual, enjoy Idea Space.

[Teleport to Akihabara and go to the coffee shop marked 「ポプラ」. It's the one you and Baraki went to ten years ago to talk to the Mysterious Man. It's mildly packed as you enter in search of your friend.]

Baraki: You're here. I trust you, at least enough to ask for your help. (Walks to man sat at a table) This is Naitou from the Ring of Gaia. Don't listen to the biased bullshit the news is spewing out, this man's a hero. I sympathised with him during a meeting with the Administration, so the bastards crucified me. I've since decided to join arms with the Gaians.

Naitou: I'm Naitou, nice to meet you. You've seen the news, then you've also seen what happened to Baraki. For the first time ever we were alerted to another soul who would oppose the Administration Bureau. We knew instantly that we could work together. I contacted Baraki from this very shop.

Baraki: We're more in common than you think; Naitou here also has memories of the underground city.

Naitou: I was washed away during the flood, but managed to find an unmanned vessel. After a long time onboard we found True Tokyo. In our investigation of the Central Administration Bureau we have deduced that they are looking to control the perfect being. The "Messiah," if you will. As the demon Navi obey humans here, we believe they've been using Idea Space for their own crooked means. There's got to be something they're hiding...

Baraki: In order to have any chance against Chuo, we'll need the help of the Ring of Gaia. Don't mention this to Mubiora. I'll be disappointed if you go getting soft now.

Naitou: The men and women here are all against Central Administration; true Gaians. We are going to hack into the construction site of Takeshita Street and install a virus bomb.

Baraki: Chuo is trying to expand the reach of the Order of Messiah. It seems they are going to turn Takeshita Street into a base for missionary action. Naitou's strategy has got to work. It'll do heavy damage to Chuo and appeal our existence to the public eye. Chances are we'll gain a lot of followers from this attack. Killing two birds with one stone, right?

Naitou: We ought to recruit as many people as we can. Azuma-san, will you lend us your strength?

Baraki: What'd'ya say? We can do this together, Azuma.

*Option:
(Option 2) No, I can't

Baraki: Tch... That's alright, you'll recognise soon enough that I was right.

(Later, in Dragon Palace)

Miranda: You're back, and all in one piece. That's good. I gathered some information from the news while you were diving. Azuma, look at this.

#NET NEWS#

In response to the rapidly increasing Noise damage, the Central Administration Bureau is taking preventive measures by improving the program. They have announced that they will focus in these measures on eliminating the terror group calling themselves the "Ring of Gaia."

#END NET NEWS#

Sumire: Is it really their fault that there's been more Noise recently?

(Stephen enters)

Stephen: What are the demons seeking... you must understand that much before you can understand the rest.

Sumire: The demon at the club said there was a lot of energy, that that was what she wanted.

Miranda: Perhaps they're looking for desires?

Stephen: That's right. Lust, hunger, greed... Originally this virtual space was created as a vent for desires people couldn't fulfil in reality. As a result, Idea Space is filled with the embodiments of human desires. That's the reason some demons follow humans as "Navi." The Administration Bureau is only a conduit, and spawns even more greed and desires through its existence.

Miranda: But why are there more demons now? Sumire, show me around the place you visited recently. I think we might uncover some clues if we look into these Life Ghosts.

Sumire: No! I'm not going back!

Miranda: When will you grow up, you can't be a child forever...

Sumire: As long as I don't become a filthy fucking adult, I'm fine staying a child!

Miranda: Fine! Azuma, let's go.

[Dive and go to Ikebukuro. Everyone you ask says some strange stuff about Life Ghosts, but many just blow it off as a rumour. Walking down the back of the screen will lead you to Miranda, whom you join.]

Miranda: Excuse me, is it alright if I ask you a couple of questions?

Young Man: Hm? You? You guys are Chuo, right?

Miranda: No.

Young Woman: That's BS.

Young Man: You're really giving us heat just for hanging out? Get bent!

Young Woman: Kenji, show them what you're made of.

Young Man: Bitch! It's too dangerous.

Young Woman: Don't be such a baby, give it to 'em!

Miranda: We are in no way associated with the Administration Bureau. We just want to hear about Life Ghosts.

Young Man: Really? You're not Chuo?

Miranda: We're different.

Young Woman: That's what they all say!

Young Man: Dammit! Bibi, what's your stance here?

Young Woman: Well, if they pay for our karaoke we'll tell them what we know about Life Ghosts.

Miranda: Azuma, what'll you do?

Young Woman: It'll cost ya 5000 Macca.

*Option:
(Option 2) No, of course I won't do that

Young Woman: The hell do you think we are, bastards? Let's do it, c'mon. Fuck them up!

Young Man: Alright... Fight me!

[Kick his ass and a crowd forms around you.]

Crowd: Yeah, you kicked his ass! Next challenger!! Wait, no, beat the women!!!

Young Woman: Shut the hell up! It means nothing! They're just playing around, 's all. Though if I'm being honest, you two weren't even that good.

*Option:
(Option 1) Don't overlook their insolence

[Kick their asses. The crowd cheers you on.]

Miranda: Azuma, I've never done anything like this before. Let's hurry before Administration comes.

(You try to walk away but bump into Shiki as he comes through the terminal)

Shiki: We meet again.

Miranda: You? Why are you here?

Shiki: Would I be wrong in assuming that you two are the cause of that fuss over there?

Miranda: It shouldn't have been our fault...

Shiki: Well, I have something to give you. (Hands Azuma a disk) This disk comes from members of the Ring of Gaia. It seems to have been part of a secret exchange between Gaians, though it comes with a strong and secure locking system. As such, I am unable to view its contents. I believe if you were to...

Miranda: If we hack into the disk, you may be able to see what's on it.

Shiki: I don't know if it contains any useful information, but it is nonetheless worth investigating.

Miranda: Hmm, we'll see what we can do.

Shiki: You should escape before Administration comes. Until we meet again.

(Shiki leaves)

Miranda: Thank you, Shiki.

#CALL#

Sumire: There's been an accident, come quick.

#END CALL#

Miranda: Let's head back to Dragon Palace!

(Back on the submarine)

Sumire: Azuma, look at this.

#NET NEWS#

This morning Harajuku's Takeshita Street was subject to large scale terrorist attacks, the explosions leaving 27 dead and 52 injured. The Central Administration Bureau claims the group responsible for the violent attacks are dedicated hackers and are likely to strike again. In retaliation, Administration has tripled the strength of all surrounding areas, promising that the terrorists will not succeed again.

#END NET NEWS#

Miranda: That's awful... there's no doubt, the way Baraki's been acting lately...

Sumire: Oh, you guys left the terminal on. What are you planning to do?

Miranda: We were going to hack into a disk Shiki gave us.

Sumire: Shiki? The person you met in The Expense?

Miranda: That's right. It seems this disk was used by Gaians to send messages and to communicate. Since it likely contains information we don't know yet, we were going to extract it.

Sumire: Then I'll go! My hacking's better than yours anyway.

Miranda: Okay, I understand. Be careful.

Sumire: Azuma, let's go!

[Dive.]

Drive: Gaia-Drive
Number of detection ports: 6
Magnetite carry-on capacity limit: 23000
Please select how much Magnetite to bring in:

[Select how much Magnetite to bring in. Your choice, though stay safe.]

You will take in #### Magnetite, is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

Please do the initial setup.

[Choose your party information.]

Please choose a port.

[Choose one of the locations.]

Is this port okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

parties can be placed to begin.

[Choose a party by pressing the button on the top left that reads 「配置」(meaning arrangements).]

Please select the party placement destination.

[Choose the place to place your party.]

Magnetite is required for this, and you currently are in possession of #### Magnetite. Is this okay?

*Option:

(Yes or no)

[You have control of the four buttons in the bottom left part of the screen. Either place more parties or press the bottom right of these buttons, the one that reads 「終了」(meaning close).]

RTS will commence once you have finished. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

[Commence.]

Sumire: By the way, do you know much about terrain synchronisation? Every demon has its own magic lineage. Some demons go by primarily Agi-based systems, while others go by Zio-based ones, etcetera. Look at this party. The leader is Feng Huang, right? In that case, she'll use Agi and fire attacks. No doubt. If they are in contact with their Area and it isn't being used, fire terrain synchronisation can occur. The type of magic the demon has will increase in strength if terrain synchronisation is successful. For Feng Huang, a demon that uses Agi, the synchronisation will buff her fire skills. Despite this, a demon's lineage is hard to judge by appearances. The best way to avoid attacking demons on synchronised Areas is to memorise what skills each demon uses. Good luck.

[Successfully complete the hack.]

Hacking Successful!

[Return to Dragon Palace, the submarine.]

Miranda: We should be able to read the disk now. Found anything?

Sumire: There seems to be a place in Roppongi where you can buy information, but it doesn't include an exact location. They call it an "Information Store."

Miranda: A place in Roppongi? Well, at least we know something.

Sumire: Also, it seemed interesting so I took a look into it... Akiba Arena's Ultimate Tournament! We can do it today!

Miranda: Akiba Arena?

Sumire: It's in Akihabara. There's an open battle to decide the strongest person in Idea Space!

Miranda: It sounds juvenile.

Sumire: But there are prizes! I wanna go.

Miranda: (To Azuma) Don't tell me you want to go to Akiba Arena. Let's go investigate the information store in Roppongi.

*Option:
(Option 1) I want to go to Akihabara

Sumire: Yes! Let's go, let's go, *A-zu-ma!*

Miranda: It can't be helped... well, I'll go investigate Roppongi alone. Travel safely.

[Dive and go to Akihabara. Walk down the first alleyway to the right of the terminal and approach the Arena. There are two bouncers.]

Bouncer: Today is reservation only. Head home, kid.

Sumire: I know, I came here to fight for the prizes.

Bouncer: I don't know where you heard about that, but if you want to leave here with your dignity and both your hands intact I suggest you turn around and go home.

Sumire: We're stronger than you. Want me to prove it?

Bouncer: You're about to be in a world of pain, little girl!

[Fight them both.]

Bouncer: Ughh...

Sumire: Too easy.

(A stranger walks by)

Okamochi: Damn, you guys're powerful. You going for champion?

Sumire: Who's this old man?

Okamochi: Five times. If you win the game five times, you're the champ. Then you get the prize. So, do you aim for the skies like an eagle?

Sumire: We don't really know, we just came here to join in.

Okamochi: Ah, I see, I see. Well, from today let the eagles be your guides, your partner.

Sumire: What are you saying? Azuma is my partner, obviously.

Okamochi: Follow me, young ones. You must review the battlefield.

(Runs off)

Sumire: W-Wait!

(You follow him into the arena. An announcer stands in the middle of the ring as an audience cheers around him)

Announcer: Coming up: the final match! Let's welcome our challenger to the stage, "Killer Tsune!" Boasting an insane four consecutive wins, this man is a force to be reckoned with! And his opponent, "Baraki!"

(From the audience)

Sumire: Wh- Baraki?

Okamochi: Hmm, there is a man who has flown with the eagles before. He's made it this far.

Sumire: Really? That guy!?

(Back in the ring, Tsune's Navi is Kerberos)

Tsune: I expected I'd be drafted into the finals, but a weakling like you? No, not even I saw that coming.

Baraki: Oi, where'd you get that Navi?

Tsune: Hehehe... you nervous?

Baraki: Huh?

Tsune: Before the match, let me tell you something: I've played this game before. I've been crowned champion multiple times, and it's no coincidence. Bringing this Navi here is a sign of my strength, of how damn unbeatable I am.

Baraki: I wasn't asking for your life story, I was asking where you got that Navi.

Tsune: He's fierce and he's strong and he'll beat you to a pulp, that's all you have to know.

Baraki: Right. Well then, I'll have to take this slowly.

Tsune: Bastard. I hope you live to regret the day Killer Tsune turned your bones to dust!

(Baraki beats Tsune with minimum effort and the crowd cheers him on. He turns to address them)

Baraki: Alright everybody, listen up! This is my power! If you seek to free yourselves from the shackles of Chuo, if *you* want to use the power *you* deserve the way *you* want to, join the Ring of Gaia! Do not forget that name: the Ring of Gaia!

(Baraki walks away. Back in the audience:)

Sumire: The Ring of Gaia? Why is Baraki supporting them?

Okamochi: Young ones, you must register at once. Winning is just as simple as losing. You must win fair and square up to the fifth and final fight. Fly like an eagle, come out victorious. Come, young ones.

(Later on in the Arena's waiting room)

Sumire: The competition sure seems strong...

Okamochi: He's fighting here too, you know. They say he's the strongest fighter around. The legendary Green Bear. I will pray he becomes your opponent, so that you may best him in battle.

(A staff member walks into the room)

Arena Staff: Sorry for the wait. Azuma's registration is complete. Now, the rules to the Ultimate Tournament are simple; as simple as being knocked out or thrown down. If you defeat the opponent in battle, you win. If you win a match, you'll be rewarded with prizes, but if you lose one your prizes will reset to zero. Win all five matches and you'll be crowned champion. You can even win a surprise sword. Do you want to hear the explanation again?

*Option:
(Option 2) No thanks

Arena Staff: If that's so, you should get ready for your first game. You'll be entering the ring as a challenger, your first opponent being Maximan. He's got more experience than you, currently having two consecutive wins under his belt.

Okamochi: Maximan? Hrgh... his Navi has some strong fire attacks. You'll have to find his weakness.

Sumire: I'll be cheering you on, so you better do your best!

Okamochi: Calm down, you'll frighten the little one.

Arena Staff: Azuma, are you ready for your first fight?

[Check you have some good items and sort out your equipped Navi. This'll be difficult, so don't hesitate to reload a save and do some extra grinding if you think it's necessary. Good luck. When you exit the menu you get another option.]

*Option:
(Option 2) I'm ready

(In the ring)

Announcer: And his opponent, the man of little words: Maximan!

(Maximan enters the ring)

Maximan: Kill, kill... kill you... kill, kill... I'll kill you!

[Defeat Maximan.]

(Back in the waiting room)

Arena Staff: Congratulations, Azuma. You have won 1000 Macca.

Sumire: Azuma, that's awesome! You looked so cool!

Okamochi: You have the spirit of a fighter in you. I wonder what challenges await...

Arena Staff: Azuma's next opponent will be Hell Nurse.

Okamochi: Hell Nurse? Hrgh... her Navi's direct attacks carry intense weight.

Arena Staff: If you win the next round, your prize money is doubled. If you lose, you get nothing. You may withdraw now and take the 1000 Macca, if you can't handle it. Do you accept the challenge?

Okamochi: If you turn back now you'll never get another chance. Grab the glory, be an eagle! Will you take the challenge?

*Option:
(Option 1) Yes I will

Arena Staff: Please prepare.

*Option:

(Option 1) Prepare

[Get yourself geared and ready, this ones even more difficult than the last. Exit the menu and another option appears.]

*Option:
(Option 2) I'm ready

(In the ring)

Announcer: And now - the winner of the previous round - give a warm welcome to Azuma Kei!

Hell Nurse: Don't go easy on me just because I'm a woman.

[Defeat Hell Nurse.]

(Back in the waiting room)

Sumire: You doubled your prize money! Damn man, don't go losing it now!

Okamochi: So your first round wasn't a fluke...

Arena Staff: Your next opponent will be Fezu Adonis.

Okamochi: Fezu Adonis? His Navi returns all sorts of attacks. I'm sorry, I'm old and I've forgotten most everything about him.

Arena Staff: Will you risk your 2000 Macca and enter the next round?

*Option:
(Option 1) Yes

Arena Staff: Please prepare.

*Option:
(Option 1) Prepare

[Get your parties organised and then jump back in.]

*Option:
(Option 2) I'm ready

(In the ring)

Announcer: Please welcome back to the ring, two time winner, Azuma Kei!

Fezu Adonis: My name is Fezu Adonis. You can keep the blood you spill as a souvenir of your defeat!

[Defeat Fezu Adonis.]

(Back in the waiting room)

Sumire: I cheered you on Azuma! I think I'm in love!

Okamochi: A little more... Just a little more and the eagle's dream can be fulfilled.

Arena Staff: Your next opponent will be Butzii.

Okamochi: Butzii? Take care of him. His Navi is a bird type. Do not get misled by his speed.

Arena Staff: Azuma-san, will you take the challenge and risk the 4000 Macca you've earned so far?

*Option:
(Option 1) Of course

Arena Staff: Well then, get ready.

*Option:
(Option 1) Get ready

[Organise your party and prepare yourself for the hardest one yet.]

*Option:
(Option 2) I'm ready

(In the ring)

Announcer: The next challenger is looking to become the next champion, already having won three battles! Give it up for Azuma Kei!

Butzii: Watch out, watch out man. Watch out for your life man!

[Defeat Butzii.]

(Back in the waiting room)

Sumire: I'm getting to like you more and more Azuma-senpai!

Okamochi: If you win this match, you are the champion!

Arena Staff: Azuma-san, your last opponent will be Green Bear.

Okamochi: Green Bear? Okay, I knew he'd make it this far. He's survived up to the final round, so you know he's strong. The eagle's wish is for you to succeed.

Sumire: What the hell are you trying to say? I don't care if he's green or pink, this Bear guy is going down! Azuma can't lose.

Okamochi: Not even the eagles can understand the weaknesses of his Navi. Don't play around with him. He can kill you in a single hit.

Arena Staff: Azuma-san, are you going to gamble your life and the 8000 Macca you have earned for this final battle and the chance to become the champion of the Akiba Arena Ultimate Tournament?

*Option:
(Option 1) There's no turning back, let's do this

Arena Staff: I advise you prepare well, this won't be easy.

*Optjon:
(Option 1) Get ready

[If you've made it this far, I congratulate you. It's actually relatively difficult all things considered. Really prepare well for this one. Now, win this last battle.]

*Option:
(Option 2) I'm ready

(In the ring)

Announcer: With four wins, in the battle for the crown, please welcome Azuma Kei back to the ring for one final battle! Now, if Azuma wins this battle he will be given 20000 Macca, the title of champion, and a surprise sword!

Green Bear: I've heard good things about you, so much so that I may even shed a tear when I stand over your mangled corpse. Here's some advice: never fuck with Akiba Arena's strongest warrior, Green Bear!

[Defeat Green Bear.]

(The crowd cheers your name. Sumire and Okamochi run into the ring to join you)

Sumire: I knew you'd win Azuma! I never doubted you!

Okamochi: This is it... my whole life's dream as a trainer, to live this moment right now...

Announcer: Azuma Kei has defeated the strongest warrior in all of Akiba Arena! You are now the champion!

Received Unnamed Sword
Received 20000 Macca

(The audience cheers your name again)

Sumire: (To Okamochi) You feel that, old man? This is something else...

Okamochi: Of course I do, this is legendary. I feel so alive.

(Without warning a fierce-looking demon materialises in the ring, bringing everyone to silence)

Susano-o: My name is Susano-o. I have been asleep, but now called upon by a fighting spirit.

Sumire: What? Is the match not over?

Susano-o: Gathered in this place, I sense only greed. This is a powerhouse fuelled by sweat and war, conflict and pain. Devote yourselves to me, to cleanse the filth from your puny bodies. (Susano-o slaughters the announcer and a few audience members, but the rest run away) Greed, desire, lust... That is all you have become, and all you can be. Allow me to show you my true power.

Okamochi: No! This man- This hero is a true champion, raised and trained by the eagles! I won't let you touch him! (Okamochi charges towards Susano-o, but is impaled by his sword. He topples to the ground at Sumire and Azuma's feet) I am... glad that I could meet you two... in the end... I hope... that I have... a beautiful dream...

Sumire: No, no, no! Hang in there! Stay strong!

(Okamochi disappears into Idea Space, his consciousness lost forever)

Sumire: No... Although he was a strange old man, somehow - for the first time in a while - I didn't hate him. You took away someone I cared for, and I'm not going to forgive you. You want a fight? You'll get one. You have no idea what you're in for!

[Fight against Susano-o, this one's really tough. Give it your all, you've made it this far already it'd be a waste to fall at the last hurdle. Defeat him.]

Sumire: W-We should go back before Chuo finds us... Goodbye, strange old man.

(Back at Dragon Palace)

Miranda: I'm glad you returned safely. I checked out the information store in Roppongi.

Sumire: Well, did you learn anything about Life Ghosts?

Miranda: Sort of. Life Ghosts seem to play a role in diverging people's greed. The idea is that by dissipating desires in Idea Space we can avoid deterioration of public security in the real world.

Sumire: If that's true, then Idea Space is sorta like a toilet for people's desires... yuck.

Miranda: Also, you can only distinguish between Life Ghosts and humans once you've captured them. The differences are minute, supposedly.

Sumire: Life Ghosts are just programs, right? Doesn't that mean you can collect them like normal Navi?

Miranda: I was worried about that. I don't know how or where I would collect them.

Sumire: We came back because we won the tournament, but why did you come back? Your investigation isn't complete.

Miranda: I came to check the Net News. Look at this.

#NET NEWS#

Tomorrow is truly a day to celebrate for the Order of Messiah and Messians all around, being the Messian day of worship. At Shinagawa Cathedral, the high-goddess Maria will become a reality. We highly endorse visiting the Cathedral tomorrow.

#END NET NEWS#

Sumire: Maria? Did I hear that wrong, "high-goddess?"

Miranda: Azuma, we have to go to the Shinagawa Cathedral tomorrow. What're they planning?

[End of chapter Five]

*Option:
(Option 1) Save
(Option 2) Load
(Option 3) Next Chapter

[Save and get going. You are given the option to dive as you enter the sixth chapter. Go ahead.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. Enjoy Idea Space, Azuma.

[Go to Shinagawa and enter the Cathedral.]

(The Cathedral is set up like any usual church mass, and all the pews are full of people waiting in eager anticipation. At the front of the Cathedral there is an altar, before which is a mural sporting a few Hebrew characters. Slowly but surely, Maria flickers into existence in front of everyone)

Miranda: That's Maria...

(People seem mostly unfazed by Maria's arrival, until she begins to cry tears of blood and all of the people inside the Cathedral quietly disappear)

Sumire: Fading away... everyone's disappearing!?

(The Cathedral is now completely empty)

#CALL#

Baraki: Shit, it's horrible... what the hell happened down there?!

Miranda: Baraki! What have you been doing?

Baraki: Forget about me, look at this!

(Baraki shows you footage of citizens of True Tokyo in the real world dying inexplicably in the streets. The Industrial Area, the Residential Area... everywhere. They rot and turn into skeletons instantaneously)

Sumire: Th-Those are real people! Why...?

Miranda: No, I can't believe this. It has to be fake.

Baraki: Don't give me any of that crap! Of course it's fucking real, it happened right before my eyes goddamnit! All those people... gone. You guys are the only ones left in Idea Space. Shit, Chuo! Watch out!

(Tudumi enters with two Idea Angels)

Miranda: Director Tudumi!

Tudumi: I'm impressed to see you all visiting a place of worship. Now we are the only ones left in this world. There are no survivors other than yourselves.

Miranda: What the hell did you do!?

Tudumi: You should not exist in this world, but no matter; you will see your end soon enough. And with your deaths the Thousand Year Kingdom shall be born.

Miranda: Thousand Year Kingdom?

Tudumi: Yes, the ideal world of peace that we desire. Now, I expect you to put up a good fight.

[Battle against Idea Angels. They're very difficult, but you have to defeat them. After that battle you will be taken into a battle against Tudumi and three Angels. Defeat Tudumi.]

(Tudumi disappears)

Sumire: What happened? He fell down so easily...

#CALL#

Baraki: Did it work? We killed him from this side!

Miranda: You saved us?

Baraki: Damn straight, now we're even.

Miranda: What on Earth are you talking about?

Baraki: You helped me when I was getting, you know, crucified.

Miranda: I *thought* you were a friend, so we saved you. I didn't mean to create any kind of debt.

Baraki: Well I have my pride. Anyway, I have something I need to show you. Come back to Dragon Palace.

#END CALL#

[Now I'd recommend grinding some more and fusing some more demons before returning to the real world. It's dangerous not to be well equipped at this point. Back in the Dragon Palace submarine at the bottom of the ocean:]

Sumire: Who's that?

Baraki: His name is Naitou. He's a friend. He's the one who killed Tudumi over here.

Miranda: Definitely a Gaian...

Naitou: You're a sharp one. Indeed, I'm a teacher of the Ring of Gaia. Naitou, nice to meet you.

Baraki: I don't want to hear you complaining, Miranda. This man saved your life.

Miranda: Baraki, you, did you help with the terrorist attack on Takeshita Street?

Naitou: Revolutions are built on sacrifice.

Miranda: I can't believe you; you're trying to justify murder!

Naitou: I don't mean to justify it, only to say that we are one step closer to achieving our beliefs.

Miranda: Beliefs? You think murder will get you your beliefs?

Baraki: Wait a second, calm the hell down! We've hit Chuo where it hurts, and that's important.

Naitou: Please, we need to cooperate.

Miranda: Cooperate?! You're asking me to work with terrorists?

Naitou: It's merely a difference in perspective. It's as Baraki said, now we are a threat to Administration and we have the power to hurt them. Please, join us.

Miranda: Never.

Sumire: Ok, ok, Baraki. What'd you want to show us?

Baraki: Tch, well I need a second opinion on something I found. I was wondering if you guys could find a pattern or something in all this.

(Baraki shows you a decimated head with wires sewn through it and a metallic spinal chord. It's Tudumi)

Sumire: Wh-What is this?

Miranda: It's an... android.

Sumire: What do you mean? Isn't that Chuo's...?!

Naitou: Baraki, I'll leave you to solve this case. I'm keeping others waiting, so I must-

Baraki: Understood. Please, call whenever.

Naitou: I have high hopes, Baraki. Well then...

(Naitou leaves, Stephen enters)

Stephen: This is interesting.

Miranda: Stephen, do you know anything about this android? We knew him as the Director of Administration, but...

Stephen: If you hack into the android's brain you might find something. (Stephen connects wires into a hole in Tudumi's head) I connected the terminal to the head, so you can hack in anytime.

Baraki: Perfect. Azuma, let's go tinker around in Tudumi's head.

[Dive into Central Administration Bureau's Director Tudumi's brain]

Drive: Messiah
Number of detection ports: 7
Magnetite carry-on capacity limit: 29000
Please select how much Magnetite to bring in:

[Select how much Magnetite to bring in. Your choice, try for the limit.]

You will take in #### Magnetite, is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

Please do the initial setup.

[Choose your party information.]

Please choose a port.

[Choose one of the locations.]

Is this port okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

parties can be placed to begin.

[Choose a party by pressing the button on the top left that reads 「配置」(meaning arrangements).]

Please select the party placement destination.

[Choose the place to place your party.]

Magnetite is required for this, and you currently are in possession of #### Magnetite. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

[You have control of the four buttons in the bottom left part of the screen. Either place more parties or press the bottom right of these buttons, the one that reads 「終了」(meaning close).]

RTS will commence once you have finished. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

[Commence.]

Baraki: It may be better to try and use combo skills for your defence. For example, Scathach and Cu Chulainn can use the combination skill "Leap" to avoid battles if they're on the same party. These kind of skills are really useful. However, you have to have the necessary demons and know the combination skill to use it. I'll let you investigate them in your own time. Now, however useful these skills are, they consume way too much Magnetite. When you are almost out of Magnetite, you should use "Temporal Union." You can duplicate skills and party members using "Branch." But remember, "Temporal Union" and "Branch" and all the combination skills can only be used by the right demons. C'mon, this hack won't beat itself. Stay sharp.

[Defeat the enemy leader or destroy the Command Area.]

Hacking Successful!

[Completion screen goes by. You appear up inside the system, code lining the nonexistent walls surrounding you. Baraki inspects a panel that appears before him.]

Baraki: Damn it! The defence system worked! I don't know the password... but there's strange letters written here. I feel like I've... hey, Azuma, where have we seen these before?

*Option:
(Option 4) In the Shinagawa Cathedral

Baraki: That's right. It was definitely on the alter at the Cathedral. Let's go!

(Back at Dragon Palace)

Sumire: Find anything?

Baraki: No, if we don't know the password there's no chance we can get anything from the bastard's head.

Sumire: Don't look at me, I don't know it.

Baraki: There were strange characters displayed on the input screen. I feel like I saw them on the altar in Shinagawa Cathedral.

Miranda: The letters on the altar spelt Miryam, which is Maria in Hebrew.

#CALL#

Naitou: Did you learn anything from the android head?

Baraki: Apparently it has something to do with Shinagawa Cathedral. I don't entirely know how to go about this.

Naitou: That's a place of worship for Messians, correct? Hmm, I'm leaving.

Baraki: Hey, what're you doing?

#END CALL#

Baraki: Oi! Oi, where're you going!?

Miranda: What happened?

Baraki: I don't... I don't know.

(The submarine shakes and the alarm goes off. Outside, explosions tear through the water around you. A voice sounds inside Dragon Palace)

Feris: I found you. You weren't *on* the sea, you were *in* it. Hmm, such a nice facility you have there. I'd love to take it. Sadly, it won't be there much longer. Sayonara, mina-san.

(Machines outside the submarine launch a missile, completely destroying the now withered and worn Dragon Palace)

[End of chapter Six]

*Option:
(Option 1) Save
(Option 2) Load
(Option 3) Next Chapter

[Save and continue to the next chapter.]

(In the underground warehouse of the Doppel Gallery, a somewhat makeshift base made by Stephen)

Baraki: We could've died out there!

Sumire: Where are we?

Stephen: We can't live at the bottom of the ocean forever.

Baraki: That's right, so little by little you started moving things to... that's amazing! You're amazing!

Stephen: It's definitely too early to celebrate. If our charred corpses don't float to the surface, it's only a matter of time before we have ourselves another pursuer.

Miranda: Right, but I've got to go find Mubiora. He needs to know about this place and...

Baraki: You will do no such thing! I'll kill him if you bring him here.

Miranda: What are you saying? He's a friend, you know that.

Baraki: No, none of you are my friends. The only person I've ever considered to be my friend is Azuma.

Miranda: We came to save you... your morals are all broken...

Baraki: What?! I'm sick of this slut thinking she's above me! Above all of us!

Stephen: Please be quiet... I need you to see this.

(Stephen shows you footage of people alive and well in True Tokyo)

Sumire: Th-They're alive! Everyone's back?

Baraki: That's bullshit! I saw them die. This doesn't prove anything, I'm leaving!

Miranda: Don't move so arbitrarily, Baraki.

Baraki: I don't take orders from you, cunt!

(Baraki leaves)

Sumire: And he's gone, just like that.

Miranda: I can't keep up with that man. Azuma, we must go and investigate the password at Shinagawa Cathedral.

[Dive.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. I wish you safe travels in Idea Space.

[Go to Shinagawa and walk to the right of the screen, before entering the Cathedral. You just manage to see a couple of bodies disappear as you arrive.]

Miranda: Who did this...? (You run ahead to see two people having an argument) You!

Hayashi: Huh? Who is- you guys?!

Miranda: You survived.

Hayashi: You sayin' I coulda died?

Miranda: You haven't forgotten us, have you?

Hayashi: Listen lady, I dunno what you're on about but this party is just getting started!

(Hayashi points menacingly at the Messian he was talking to)

Messian Bishop: P-Please, help me...

Miranda: Azuma, we have to save him!

*Option:
(Option 1) Save the Bishop

[Defeat Hayashi, he goes down pretty quickly.]

Hayashi: W-W-Wait a minute! I was only just hired.

Miranda: Who's your employee?

Hayashi: I don't know any names! I was meant to meet them at Shinjuku's Open Garden after the job.

Miranda: I'll get the people behind this.

Hayashi: I won't do anything bad again, honest! Please let me go.

Miranda: Get out of here.

Hayashi: You are so kind. Please remember me, Hayashi. I will repay your gratitude one day!

(Hayashi leaves and Miranda hurries to the Bishop)

Messian Bishop: You're a life saver.

Miranda: Don’t mention it. Now Bishop, what happened at the Messian day of worship?

Messian Bishop: That's an annual event, what's wrong about that?

Miranda: Annual? You do the same thing every year?

Messian Bishop: I know it sounds strange, but if you lived around here you'd know all about it.

Miranda: Since when has this event been going on?

Messian Bishop: If you want to know the history of the Order of Messiah, I suggest you ask the Central Administration Bureau.

Miranda: Is the vision of Maria broadcast from Administration?

Messian Bishop: But of course, everything is controlled by Central Administration.

Miranda: (Rubbing her forehead) The altar, the Hebrew letters... it all comes back to Central Administration. Azuma, we ought to look into this world more.

[Exit the Cathedral.]

Emi: B-Big bro?

Miranda: And you are?

Emi: I'm Emi, geez are you dreaming? Is that Big bro?

Miranda: (To Azuma) *Big bro?*

Emi: (Hugs Azuma) It *is* Big bro! But how? How are you still alive?

Miranda: You're Emi-chan, right? I've heard stories about you from your brother.

Emi: Who are you?

Miranda: I'm a friend of your brother, Miranda. Nice to meet you.

Emi: Um, are you a Debugger?

Miranda: That's right. But, Emi, how did you know he'd be here?

Emi: I always come to see Big bro. But we were told the Debuggers died in an accident, and yet you're here. Are you a zombie, Big bro?

Miranda: No, we're just being subjugated by severe antagonisation from the Administration Bureau.

Emi: Eh?

Miranda: Azuma, if we talk any longer we'll get caught. We have to go.

Emi: Big bro, how are you alive?!? Explain it to me!!

(Two Idea Angels approach you)

Idea Angel: There you are!

Miranda: We were too slow. Here they come!

[Defeat the Idea Angels.]

(Several other Idea Angels approach you and Emi hides behind your back. Tudumi is leading them)

Miranda: Director! But we killed you!

Tudumi: Not this me, you didn't. You'll find there are many, many me's.

Miranda: Even androids have their limits.

Tudumi: You're completely surrounded, and your options are slim. Don't do anything rash and we may consider giving you a painless death.

Miranda: Azuma, let's escape back inside!

(You run into the Cathedral)

Messian Bishop: What seems to be the matter?

Miranda: Bishop, do you know of someplace we can escape to?!?

(Tudumi and the Idea Angels enter)

Tudumi: Bishop, hand them over.

Messian Bishop: These people helped me, saved me. Why, whatever have they done to deserve this?

Tudumi: Make no mistake, those are followers of the Ring of Gaia who wish only to destroy and spread hatred across our fine world.

Emi: That's b-bullcrap! Big bro was a Debugger, and you know it! Why are you telling lies about Big bro?!

Tudumi: Azuma, Miranda, you have disturbed the peaceful everyday and have corrupted the Bishop and that little girl. May God have mercy on your souls.

(The Idea Angels raise their guns)

Messian Bishop: Is this truly what us great Messians have come to? Slaughtering innocents!? (To Azuma) There is a secret door behind the altar, use that to escape. There's a terminal there. You have to go!

Tudumi: Allow me to humour you before your life comes to an end, Bishop. The Central Administration Bureau have tried to summon the Messiah for many years, but failed. Now we are one with the Neo Messiah. That of which shall eliminate all dangerous molecules that threaten our existence.

Messian Bishop: Neo Messiah? What are you talking about?

Tudumi: Don't worry about it, it's far beyond your time. Fire.

(The Messian Bishop violently falls to the ground as the Idea Angels take the shot)

Miranda: Bishop!

Emi: No!!

Miranda: Emi-chan, hurry over here!

(You escape through the door and Miranda locks it behind you)

Miranda: That'll hold them off for a while. In the meantime we should use the terminal. Emi-chan, go back to the real world from there.

Emi: B-But I don't wanna leave Big bro!

Miranda: It's alright, Emi. We're hiding in the warehouse of Doppel Gallery in the Office Street.

Emi: Really? Don't lie to me.

Miranda: It's the truth, but you can't tell anyone about anything that has happened here today. It'd just get everyone so confused.

Emi: O-Okay, sure. Big bro, promise me you'll see me again soon.

*Option:
(Option 1) Of course

(Emi rushes to hug you)

Emi: Please stay safe Big bro.

(Emi leaves via the terminal and Miranda walks to a nearby desk, inspecting a computer)

Miranda: Azuma, look at this. (A video plays on the monitor showing Maria, and a closer look at her face shows a pattern. A Möbius strip is also pictured briefly) It's alternating between 7, 3 and 0. That's got to be the password. I'll transfer the data to the Gallery. Let's go! (You are stopped at the terminal) What's that? The Director must have sent them!

[Defeat the demons.]

Miranda: Central Administration must be sending these demons over. We have to make this room more secure; we can hack in from here! We can halt the demons progress by destroying the program's core!

*Option:
(Option 2 [This upcoming part is just a good opportunity to grind, but you may select the first option and start the hack if you wish]) No, let them come

[Another demon appears. Defeat them.]

Miranda: Azuma, we have to make this place safer. We can hack into the terminal, come on! We can't take any more demons!

*Option:
(Option 2) Wait a bit longer

[More demons. Defeat them.]

Miranda: Azuma, secure this place! If we destroy the program via the terminal they won't be able to come through!

*Option:
(Option 2) Just a bit more

[Another group of demons, defeat them.]

Miranda: Azuma, the program!

*Option:
(Option 2) Not just yet

[More of the demons make it through. Defeat them.]

Miranda: Okay Azuma, it's safe now. We're hacking the terminal.

[Dive.]

Drive: Messiah
Number of detection ports: 8
Magnetite carry-on capacity limit: 34000
Please select how much Magnetite to bring in:

[Select how much Magnetite to bring in. Make your choice based on how much you have.]

You will take in #### Magnetite, is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

Please do the initial setup.

[Choose your party information.]

Please choose a port.

[Choose one of the locations.]

Is this port okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

parties can be placed to begin.

[Choose a party by pressing the button on the top left that reads 「配置」(meaning arrangements).]

Please select the party placement destination.

[Choose the place to place your party.]

Magnetite is required for this, and you currently are in possession of #### Magnetite. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

[You have control of the four buttons in the bottom left part of the screen. Either place more parties or press the bottom right of these buttons, the one that reads 「終了」(meaning close).]

RTS will commence once you have finished. Is this okay?

*Option:
(Yes or no)

[Commence. This is a very long one, but I think you've gotten the hang of it now. Succeed, please.]

Hacking Successful!

[Completion screen.]

Miranda: We prevented the intrusion of demons, but now the terminal is useless. A double-edged sword... No matter, I'm ready to fight the Director. Azuma, let's go.

(You walk back out into the Cathedral, but it's different)

Miranda: Nobody's here?

[Exit the Cathedral.]

#CALL#

Sumire: Dammit, come over to Alto!

Miranda: Wait, what's happened?!

Sumire: You'll understand when you get here, hurry!

#END CALL#

[Go to the Shinagawa terminal and after a quick save go down to Shinjuku. Run down to Alto.]

(A large group of people are gathering around Alto's screen in curiosity, a faint murmur stirring the crowd. Baraki flickers onto it and reveals a photo of Tudumi's decapitated head)

Baraki: Listen everyone! This is an android! The Central Administration Bureau are the bastards responsible for this freak! (The video of the citizens of True Tokyo dying plays on the screen, and the crowd begins to stir) And look here, everybody! This is the cleansing that took place in the real world but only several days ago! I still don't understand it... but I do know that Chuo is hiding it from us! Open your eyes! Don't let this place fool you!

(Baraki is cut off and the usual broadcast continues)

Screen: Sorry for the wait.

Miranda: Now I understand why the Director ran; something like this getting out is worth hurrying over. Azuma, Hayashi said he was going to meet his employees in Shinjuku at a place named "Open Garden." Let's go investigate. I almost hope Baraki will be there too.

[Okay, drop a save here. From now you will enter the alignment lock, so you want to be careful. Equip everything you can that is Neutral, especially armour and weapons. Go to the Fusion Chamber and mess around until you get some great Neutral-Neutral demons. Keep this save, and you'll know if you've made a mistake if the game doesn't match the script. When you're ready walk into the Open Garden bar adjacent the Shinjuku terminal.]

(Baraki is stood tapping his fingers beside a stack of chairs)

Miranda: I knew you'd be here.

Baraki: Did you see my hacking in Alto? I did it!

Miranda: I did, it was... impressive. But I have a question for you: It's about ten years ago, back when you were spreading Noise into Idea Space. I had a bit of a run-in with one of your terrorist buddies.

Baraki: Huh, who?

Miranda: A Gaian man by the name of Hayashi.

(Naitou walks into the bar)

Naitou: Did I hear somebody mention Hayashi?

Miranda: Naitou, did you hire Hayashi?

Naitou: You really are a clever woman, aren't you. We need somebody to help us while we find our standing. Until that time, Hayashi was ripe for the picking.

Miranda: And you sent him to investigate the secrets behind Maria. To make a man do such horrible things...

Naitou: By now you should have realised to proceed peacefully is out of the question. But here's a different question: will you join arms under the house of the Ring of Gaia?

Miranda: No, I refuse. Since the beginning Azuma and I have opposed the teachings of that cult.

Baraki: Is this true? Azuma, do you really think this? Would you betray your best friend?

*Option:
(Option 2) Cooperate with the Gaians

Baraki: See, Miranda? You don't know what you're saying. You've seen his actions so far; you know we're close friends. Did you really think he'd turn his back on me for you? You're an ugly ass bitch who's fighting the wrong side of this war!

Miranda: I was worrying that it'd turn out this way. Azuma, I'm disappointed.

(Miranda leaves)

Baraki: And just like that, she was gone. I knew you were on my side, man. Now, when we dive we can use our new base of operations. I'm damn excited. Azuma, let's go.

[End of chapter Seven]

*Option:
(Option 1) Save
(Option 2) Load
(Option 3) Next Chapter

[Save and continue.]

(Naitou and Baraki join you in their newly-found headquarters)

Naitou: Welcome, Azuma, to the hideout of the Ring of Gaia.

Baraki: It's really something, isn't it? It's completely hidden too, no one but the Ring knows about its existence.

Naitou: So, with the number pattern of 0, 7, 3 that you taught me, I have deduced that the password must be 307.

Baraki: And why do you say that? It could be anything, could be 703 or 037.

Naitou: Yes but you see, replacing each Hebrew letter from the Cathedral's altar with a number deciphered from Gematria gives us the aforementioned 307.

Baraki: Gematria? That sounds familiar.

Naitou: Gematria are numerical values attached to letters of the Hebrew alphabet by method of decryption that has been in use since ancient times. Each character has its own value and fixed meaning.

Baraki: I don't think I follow, but it seems our best bet is to input 307 and hope triggering the alarm doesn't get another base blown up. Alright, Azuma. Let's dive back into Tudumi's head.

[You will do another hack but I believe you can do this one by yourself now. This game script is getting a bit long so I can't explain them all. Good luck.]

(Back inside the virtual space in Tudumi's head)

Baraki: Do you remember the number Naitou told us? Three digits, you better get it right. Enter the first digit, Azuma.

*Option:
(Option 2) 3

Baraki: Now for the second one.

*Option:
(Option 1) 0

Baraki: That makes the third number 7. (Sparks fly from the screen) Yes! We've retrieved the information, let's go back now.

(In the Ring of Gaia hideout)

Baraki: Well Naitou, could you get the data from Tudumi's head?

Naitou: It's certainly in excess. Until I've finished going through all the data, feel free to show Azuma around the Idea Space hideout.

Baraki: Alright, I'll be his guide around the place. Follow me, Azuma. The hideout in Idea Space is way different from here.

(In the dark Idea Space hideout)

Baraki: And that's it, this is the hideout. We'll be relying on you to help us out, but I know you can handle it. How about a real test of strength? I wanna see what you got. Nothing serious, just some fun to see who's stronger. What do you say?

*Option:
(Option 1) Fight me

Baraki: Oh man, I feel ten years younger. First person to zero HP is the loser, the winner gets bragging rights. Let's go!

[This fight probably has the highest stakes in the entire game. I can't stress it enough, you must not lose. And if you do lose, then you won't stand a chance at what's to come. Don't be afraid of hurting him, he can take it. Show Baraki your worth!]

Baraki: Damn it! I can't lose to you... I guess I'm not what I used to be, but at least we're still friends. (Kerberos teleports in) This demon seems to give all his strength to his master. I thought I had adequate enough strength to use him, but obviously I'm no match for you. Here, take him.

Kerberos: You will become my master, Azuma.

*Option:
(Option 1) Accept your reward

Kerberos: I shall improve your power, master.

Baraki: Now if you're done gloating, let's head back to the real world.

(In the real world hideout)

Naitou: I finally got all of the data from Tudumi's head. Please, look at the monitor.

(A video starts playing, showing a strange shape being outlined by a fast-moving orb of light)

Baraki: Is that a Möbius strip?

Naitou: A symbol representing eternal regression. But what does it point to?

(The orb of light halts in the centre of the screen and a phrase begins to flash)

Baraki: "Since 2029," What does that mean?

Naitou: I assume that this has been running since then.

Baraki: Shit, isn't that the same year as the Great Flood?

(The screen flickers and more writing appears)

Baraki: What? "Messiah Program?"

(Hebrew script begins pouring down the screen)

Naitou: We can also use the Gematria method to decode the program, but it will take a considerable amount of time to do so.

Baraki: I'm sure you'll do your best, Naitou.

Naitou: Baraki, I heard there is an information store situated in Roppongi. It wouldn't be entirely useless to go and ask about the Möbius strip.

Baraki: Information store...? Miranda used that a while ago. Alright Azuma, let's go to Roppongi.

[Dive.]

Computer Guide: I'm here to help. Avoid dangerous looking people and activities.

[Travel to Roppongi and walk down the starting street until you reach a cutscene.]

Baraki: Supposedly this trash box leads into the information store. Azuma, let's go.

[You must hack into the information store's virtual space. Good luck.]

(Somebody else is already talking to the owner)

Baraki: Oi, Azuma, that woman...

Sumire: Ah, Azuma!!

(Sumire runs to your side)

Baraki: What are you doing here?

Sumire: I thought I'd find Azuma in a place like this... you can't leave us again, that was awful!

Baraki: Unfortunately for you Azuma has joined the Ring of Gaia, so he can't rejoin your *club.*

Information Store Owner: Gaiaism? Th-That's right, you're the man who hacked into Alto and showed that video.

Baraki: So you know what I'm capable of. Do you know this emblem?

Information Store Owner: That's a-a Möbius strip, right?

Baraki: Tch, useless. Okay Azuma, this man's useless. Let's go.

Sumire: Wait! Take me with you!

Baraki: Do you have any idea what we're doing?! What makes you think you're up for this?

Sumire: I hate Chuo, and I hate everyone in this messed up filthy world.

Baraki: Huh, kid's got the mindset... I'll send you a map to our facility, swing by if you're serious. If you tell anybody about it, I'll have to kill you.

Sumire: Yeah. (To you) Azuma, I'll see ya there!

(In the real world hideout)

Baraki: Damn, I think I've fractured a bone...

(Sumire enters)

Sumire: Azuma, we're finally together again...

Baraki: Did anybody follow you?

Sumire: No, I'm a great dodger. But...

Baraki: "But?"

Sumire: I escaped Miranda easily, but I think Emi is making her way here.

Baraki: Emi?

Sumire: She cried when she learnt Azuma had left. Wouldn't it have been better to let her tag along?

Baraki: We're not playing around here, this is no place for a child.

#CALL#

Naitou: Baraki-san, please look at the monitor.

(A video plays showing the bodies of many Idea Angels in the streets of Idea Space, which abruptly pans up as an enormous demon takes a bite out of the famous Shibuya 109 building)

Baraki: The hell is that?! Did you summon him?

Naitou: No, not even my influence could summon Abaddon.

Baraki: Abaddon?

Naitou: One of the great demon kings that reign supreme in the depths of The Expense. Just as greed is increasing in Idea Space, so is the might of the demons.

Baraki: Greed? What the hell are you talking about?

Naitou: Greed attracts demons. As long as Idea Space reeks of human's greed, the demons will come.

Baraki: Of course. But I've never seen a bastard as big as him!

Naitou: It really goes to show the immense amount of greed Idea Space has produced. Central Administration is fighting against Abaddon as we speak. However, they are mere insects to him.

Baraki: That's perfect! We can use him to destroy Chuo!

Naitou: I'll leave it to you, Baraki-san.

#END CALL#

Baraki: Hell yeah, who's da man?! You better be watching Chuo, I'm coming for ya.

(Baraki runs off like a giddy child)

Sumire: Azuma, here's our chance. You'll go, right?

*Option:
(Option 1) Of course

(You run into Shibuya only to see Abaddon crumble to pieces, while Tudumi and some Idea Angels lie beaten on the ground)

Baraki: Abaddon was defeated? But it seems Chuo weren't so lucky...

Sumire: Azuma, they're all ours now...

(Baraki and Sumire kill the Idea Angels but leave Tudumi lying there)

Baraki: Surely you deserve my thanks for defeating Abaddon, but I'm not in the mood for accolades. If you value what little life you have left, I suggest you spit out everything you can about the Central Administration Bureau.

Tudumi: I can't afford to be a whistleblower...

Baraki: Well then a freak like you must have a creator! I don't care if you get killed a thousand times to get the message to them that we're coming, because believe me: not cooperating will be a fate worse than anything you can possibly imagine.

Tudumi: I hail to only one master and creator; God.

Baraki: Bullshit, they can't teach a stupid machine how to lie.

Tudumi: The god I worship is perfect. The Neo Messiah.

Baraki: Neo Messiah? This is the first I've heard of it.

Tudumi: Those created from the perfect existence are under absolute control. We call that complete and perfect existence: God.

Sumire: What is he talking about? Dammit, Azuma, do something!

*Option:
(Option 1) Kill him

(You kill Tudumi)

Baraki: You idiot, I still had things I wanted to hear from him!

(Naitou enters)

Naitou: I came to watch the show.

Baraki: Well you're too late, it's over.

Sumire: What'll we do?

Naitou: I am going to enter that building. There must be some mass accumulation of energy in there, something worth Abaddon coming out to take. Desire Energy.

Sumire: Desire Energy?

Baraki: And what exactly do you plan to do with that?

Naitou: We will release it, and thus end the Administration Bureau.

Baraki: What? How?

Naitou: If a large amount of Desire Energy is released, then the mightiest demons will rise from The Expense to claim them. In this world the demons have followed the will of Administration, but these demons will be too much for them. We will create a perfectly chaotic world.

Sumire: Okay, say that's the plan, say that's what we do, what next?

Naitou: Ours will become a free world. A pure world free of judges and false justice, and the injury they cause.

Sumire: A pure world?

Naitou: You will have the ability to make the world the way you see fit. Make the world you want to live in... your ideal world...

(Everybody pauses for a moment before Naitou continues)

Naitou: Because this world of Chuo is bound, people become pollution. But if our free world is realised - since the injury Chuo causes will be nullified - people won't fall into ruin and filth.

Sumire: Filth? Naitou, will this world be free of lies?

Naitou: Yes, it will be a free world with no secrets and no lies.

Baraki: I like your thinking. Release the greed! Let's welcome the free world!

Naitou: If the Desire Energy is released, the Gaian's beliefs are achieved. I'm going in now, I'll see you on the other side.

(Naitou runs inside. Emi comes up behind you)

Emi: Big bro! (She runs to you) Where were you? Miranda-san cried too!

Baraki: Long time no see, Emi.

Emi: Huh, Baraki? Everyone survived?! Big bro, are the Administration really bad people?

Baraki: Yes, most entirely. But don't worry, the Ring of Gaia will defeat them.

Emi: Gaia? Miranda said that Big bro had been fooled by the Ring of Gaia...

Baraki: Don't take that to heart. That's what we in the Adult World call "BS." You'll find Miranda's full of it.

Sumire: Weren't you with Miranda, Emi-chan?

Emi: Yeah, but I wanted to find Big bro! I just followed Miranda.

Baraki: What? Are you saying Miranda's already inside 109?

Emi: Yeah, but I saw many people going in...

Sumire: Ah, those were Life Ghosts! This must be a recovery station, that'll explain the mass amount of desire. That's gotta be it, right?

Baraki: Now's hardly a time for asking questions. Let's go!

(Baraki enters Shibuya 109)

Emi: I wanna go too!

Sumire: No! I've been nice to you in the past, but you'd just be an inconvenience for Azuma if you came now!

Emi: Big bro...

Sumire: Let's go, Azuma.

[You enter the building and continue through the dungeon till you reach a lower floor. Sumire spots a strange door.]

Sumire: Look! It's the same emblem, a Möbius strip.

(You enter through the door and see rows of people encased in yellow capsules, with black liquids being sucked out of them and down pipes leading somewhere distant. Sumire covers her mouth in disgust)

Sumire: L-Life Ghosts...? No, is this the Desire Energy Naitou spoke about? B-But where's it all going? It's... filthy. Azuma, we have to destroy this!

*Option:
(Option 1) Destroy the capsules

(A familiar face runs into the room as you finish off smashing each capsule)

Mubiora: Was I too late?

Sumire: Huh, Mubiora! I thought you were killed! How are you here?

Mubiora: It doesn't matter. You'll understand everything when we get there.

(Mubiora leads you away. You are taken to a large and open room with multiple screens showing the Möbius strip)

Mubiora: In this Monitor Room you can see everything and anything.

(Emi is standing aside a woman in blue further down the room)

Emi: B-Big bro!

Sumire: What does all this mean? Why are you with that woman?

(Mubiora walks to the back of the room and joins Feris)

Mubiora: I invited you here to convince you.

Sumire: You betrayed us, *you* gave away the position of Dragon Palace, it was you!

Mubiora: I was only thinking of you.

Sumire: We almost died!

Feris: Back then the possibility of cooperation was naught, but now you are gradually beginning to see the world for what it is... not what you want it to be. So I'd like to make an advancement, if you take your understanding with you. Come now.

(Emi runs to you)

Emi: I'm sorry Big bro. I was worried about you, and I...

Sumire: Mubiora, what the hell are you up to?

Mubiora: I brought you here to show you the truth, and that I shall do. I want you to judge whether or not to continue the path you're on after seeing this.

(A video plays on the monitors, showing first the Möbius strip and its glowing orb. A gigantic factory-like room is shown, with thousands of capsules holding people inside being exchanged and reorganised by machines. The video stops when it shows a peaceful man resting in one)

Sumire: What- this feeling... I feel awful...

Mubiora: That is a facility in the real world. A Human Factory.

Sumire: H-Human Factory?

Feris: Inside those capsules are the people of True Tokyo; children born of the same gene.

Sumire: What do you mean? What the hell are you saying!?

Mubiora: Mankind has been extinct since the flood ten years ago. The only ones left alive were those in Gaian facilities. In other words: only those left in Dragon Palace survived the Great Flood.

Feris: But then *we* revived humanity. Watch.

(The screens show a foetus being fed the black liquids drained from the others, and it slowly grows to be a child)

Mubiora: As you've seen now, Desire Energy is the source that builds humans.

Feris: We collect the desires and greed and lust from the Life Ghosts, compressing them into the Desire Disks installed in this facility. We send it to the Human Factory in the real world, and we *make humanity.* Greed is the soul of all humans.

Sumire: That's bullshit! That's f-filthy bullshit! So what, you're an android too? Just like Tudumi? A machine? A fucking machine!

Feris: A machine that revived the humanity that was. The Neo Messiah's computer Maria is a human god.

Sumire: Stop playing around!! What the hell is Maria?! What is Maria!?

Feris: The founders of the Neo Messiah were radicals that split off from the Order of Messiah; a group of scientists with their own philosophies on remedying our world. With the help of another power, the Neo Messiah was able to create the god Maria by the scientific strengths of man.

Sumire: Some god! Maria is nothing but a machine! You're lying to everyone in the city!!

Mubiora: But she's not *just* a machine! If it weren't for Maria, your parents... and Azuma's sister over there would still be dead.

Sumire: My parents...? I don't care, I wish I had killed them anyway!

Emi: I don't... understand... Big bro... tell me they're lying... Big bro... please!

*Option:

(Option 2) Say nothing

Emi: Big bro, why aren't you saying anything? So I'm... no, no, no!!

Feris: It is a hard truth for a child to comprehend. Don't worry little one, your memory will be reset in no time at all.

Sumire: Reset? That's why no one has any memories of the underground city!

Feris: Ask yourself this; do you really need unhappy memories?

Sumire: I want to know everything that happens in my life! I want to live, and not have moments taken away from me! I don't want to lie to myself!

Mubiora: People don't know what is good to remember, and believe me when I say misfortune is completely unnecessary. Besides, after all humanity has been through, they simply can't take the truth anymore. It begins with trying to comprehend the incomprehensible, and slowly tears them apart.

Emi: No, no, no! This is... No!!! Big bro, what should I do? What should I...

Feris: Look at that poor child. People suffer if they know the truth. That's why our Administration staff know next to nothing... I tried to force you into the Messiah Program, for your own sake.

Sumire: Program? Force? Jesus Christ, why can't you give me a straight answer!?

Feris: If I speak now you'll be putting that child into a whole new world of pain.

Emi: B-Big bro... do I have that black goo inside me too? No, I don't want it! Help me! Help me... please... save me...

*Option:
(Option 2) Put Emi out of her misery

Feris: You'd kill your own sister, Azuma?

Sumire: Kill? ... of course. Emi-chan lives in a body of filth... it may be hard, but Azuma must do it.

Emi: Big bro?

Feris: If you're going to kill her, do it quickly so she doesn't suffer long.

Emi: Big bro, should I die?

(You fall to your knees)

Feris: Don't be afraid. If she dies, she will only be reborn through the Messiah Program. She'll be as good as new, but without these horrid memories.

Sumire: So that's what you do on the Messian day of worship. *That's* why no one has any memories!!

Feris: If you control both life and death artificially, you can control the desires of the people.

Sumire: So you can put that black sludge in them? Just thinking about it makes me sick!

(Emi starts to cry and runs away screaming)

Sumire: Emi-chan! Goddammit! Azuma, you can't give up! Fight with me, Azuma!

*Option:
(Option 2) Fight

#CALL#

Miranda: President, the Gaians are putting up a better fight than expected!

Feris: Understood, I'll send backup immediately.

Miranda: Thank you!

#END CALL#

Sumire: Miranda came here too!?

Mubiora: Of course, and I gave her the exact same explanation. She said that if human beings become peaceful and accept law - no matter what kind of world it is - she would accept it.

Sumire: Accept a world managed not by society, but by a lie?!

Mubiora: Even though it may be, the Administration Bureau and the Neo Messiah are only trying to save humanity. Why can't you understand that?

Sumire: Because I don't want to be filthy like you and those bastards in the city! I'm different!

Mubiora: Well then, it's set up in a storage facility just up ahead. If you destroy both the Desire Disks, your sick vision will come true!

Sumire: Two Desire Disks? That's exactly what Naitou was saying. If we destroy the disks, we can be free. We can have a world free to be shaped by our own hands, free of lies and sugarcoating adults!

Mubiora: Freedom only breeds conflict and selfishness, Sumire!

Sumire: Selfishness? You're the bastard who stabbed our backs!

Mubiora: President, these are but old friends. Please, allow me the pleasure.

Feris: Don't disappoint me.

(Feris walks away)

Mubiora: I don't mean to bully you, nor to act tough. But believe me when I say I'll kill you before you can ruin our perfect existence!

[A punishing fight ensues, but can only end one way. Kill Mubiora.]

(Mubiora falls to his feet, dead)

Sumire: Traitor...

[End of chapter Eight]

*Option:
(Option 1) Save
(Option 2) Load
(Option 3) Next Chapter

[Save and continue on to the final chapter. Walk out of the monitor room and further down the dungeon until on the fifth basement floor you meet Miranda.]

Sumire: Miranda!

Miranda: Please don't be stupid, you know there's more paths you can take.

Sumire: Oh we know; we could be a pet like you, traitor!

Miranda: If what the Central Administration Bureau says is anything to go by... I will do anything to achieve peace in this world. That's all I want; I don't want any more fighting.

Sumire: Tell me, can you really feel happy yielding to machines? C'mon Azuma, let's leave this place. We have work to do.

(Miranda tries to stop you from leaving but doesn't seem to know why)

Sumire: You're stopping us?

Miranda: Azuma, I... I...

(Miranda runs away flustered)

[Enter the door opposite you.]

(Naitou is standing tall in the centre of the room)

Naitou: Impressive work everyone, making it this far. Now, to commemorate taking hold of the new world, will you do the honour of destroying the Desire Disk yourself?

*Option:
(Option 1) I wouldn't have it any other way

(You take the disk and throw it at the wall, smashing it to pieces. Outside, Shibuya 109 explodes in a black smoke of sin and desires, which spiral up into the sky of Idea Space. Darkness spreads across the virtual world and the ground tears apart. A large, beastly hand reaches out from the depths)

Naitou: The first step to our free world has been taken. Relish this moment, our last under the tyranny of Chuo. There is but one Desire Disk that remains.

Sumire: Freedom is just within reach! Azuma, let's go find the final disk!

[If you try to leave you are stopped when a familiar man enters.]

Shiki: Wait, Azuma.

Sumire: Wha- you're not after the disks too, are you? Well I'm sorry to tell you, you're too late!

Shiki: Azuma, Sumire. Do not be fooled by this man.

Sumire: We're going to free the world! Don't get in our way!

Shiki: (To Naitou) It seems you've handled them well, Raguel. I wonder: was it for the Will of God you hid away? In any case, I can not let you progress any further with your plans.

Naitou: Hrgh, is that so. So you must be...

Shiki: Azuma, Sumire, if you destroy the remaining disk you won't be creating a world of freedom. Least not for you, that is. This world will swallow you up faster than you can scream for your life.

Sumire: What are you trying to say? No, you're working with Miranda!

Shiki: Working with? I've used her, but never worked beside her; just as this man has used you two. Watch closely young ones, this is my true form.

(A circle of light engulfs Shiki and he emerges a beautiful angel)

Sariel: It is I, the fallen angel Sariel. My wings are the proof of a better freedom than this man promises you.

Sumire: What... what do you mean!?

Naitou: I'll take it from here. Azuma, go find the other Desire Disk. That's an order!

Sariel: If you destroy the remaining disk we won't ever be able to resurrect Lucifer.

Sumire: Lucifer?

Sariel: Azuma, you have seen a demon encased in a wall of ice in the depths of The Expense. That demon is the king of The Expanse himself, Lucifer. There is no better symbol of freedom than our Lucifer. Without his resurrection, there is no hope of true eternal freedom.

Naitou: And that was your goal after all, Sariel: to save your master?

Sumire: Azuma, what should we do?

*Option:
(Option 2) Side with Naitou

Naitou: *Naitou laughs as you walk to his side* I wouldn't expect any less from you, Azuma.

Sariel: Does Raguel's nature not disturb you?

[A battle against Sariel begins, but doesn't last long. Sariel strikes Naitou and he falls to the ground.]

Sariel: Do you really think you can stand your own in that pathetic form? Young ones, watch closely. This is *his* true form.

(Like Shiki before him, Naitou is engulfed in light)

Naitou: I, Naitou, am the Archangel Raguel.

(He drops down from the light in his real form)

Raguel: I am the servant of God responsible for monitoring angels, and humans.

Sumire: You bastard! You used us!

Raguel: You should feel honoured to have been used to realise the Will of God.

Sumire: What the hell does that mean!?

Sariel: Elimination of mankind. God does not want humans to be free; it is his will to keep humanity in the palm of his hand eternally.

Raguel: Humanity doesn't deserve freedom, and you know that as well as I do. Have you ever considered that it was God himself who threw you from the heavens?

Sariel: I merely want to expand the possibilities of man, to give them the meaning they all desire.

Raguel: "Desire," you said it yourself! Possibility and meaning only creates greed and greed only leads to sin and annihilation. Beginning with the creation of nuclear weaponry, the history of humanity has been buried beneath a mountain of gluttony and sin.

Sariel: Manipulation of those nuclear weapons, that's all you've ever accomplished. That's all God has ever done. Is it not God's intention to kill every last human being?

Raguel: It is the most suitable method to relieve them of the weight of their sin.

Sumire: Shut up! Didn't the American army launch the nukes? What are you all talking about!?

Sariel: There was a servant of God behind the scenes, there always is. And the flood ten years ago? That disaster was brought upon by God to kill any humans surviving in the underground city. I suppose the petty bastard can't forgive the machines for restoring humanity.

Raguel: An artificial system of perpetual regression, a Möbius strip... it's nothing but sin, all of it. If humanity has fallen so far as to need a fake god like Maria to guide them... you're trying to use the Desire Disk to unseal Lucifer from his tomb. Believe me, you wouldn't have enjoyed it. That monster can only bring the Hell he lives in. Now then, let us sleep eternally along with all humanity. Fallen Angel, Sariel!

[Sariel and Raguel begin attacking each other, you fighting against Raguel. It's a tough battle, but you know where you stand. Defeat the Archangel Raguel.]

Sariel: (Looking upon the quivering body of his nemesis) Disappointing, Raguel. Even the most pure god would judge Chaos.

Raguel: Do you speak the words of a once true Archangel? Don't you feel ashamed...

Sariel: Shame isn't something one must let bother them in our existence. But I keep asking myself, why would you throw it all away? You had so much, Raguel. You had potential. Return to your God, and repent.

(Sariel lands the final blow and Raguel vanishes. Stepping out of a whirlwind of light, Shiki returns to his human form)

Shiki: Azuma, Sumire, do you understand now? We must use the Desire Disk to get true freedom; to revive Lucifer.

Sumire: Understood. Azuma, let's find that disk!

[Continue on down the dungeon until you bump into Miranda again.]

Miranda: Azuma!

Sumire: Miranda!

Miranda: Demons are murdering people in the streets! People are dying because of your selfish actions. God knows what will happen if you release the last disk... can you imagine the chaos?

Sumire: Dammit, you're so annoying! Annoying!

Miranda: I can't let you do this any more.

Sumire: Are you going to get in our way?

Miranda: I'd rather not fight. We were friends, don't you remember?

Sumire: If you don't want a fight, don't open your mouth!

Miranda: I want to follow you until I can understand what you're doing. Maybe I can sympathise with your ideals if I watch closer.

Sumire: Huh, only if you don't get in the way. You'll see the fault in your ways soon enough.

[Continue through the dungeon until you enter a room with Baraki lying on the floor.]

Sumire: Baraki?

Miranda: There's no Desire Disk...

#CALL#

Feris: I have secured the Desire Disk.

Sumire: You! You killed Baraki too, right?

Feris: When the Thousand Year Kingdom is achieved, Baraki will be reborn in a new form.

Sumire: If you're gonna make us into domestic fucking animals for machines, I'd prefer death!

Feris: People should be managed, looked over. They need a Shepard. You'd best use the terminal on the seventh basement floor of building A. Use it to come to the roof of Arc City. You will understand everything there.

#END CALL#

[Find the terminal and teleport to the meeting place. Feris waits melancholic looking down on the world.]

Sumire: You? Why are you here!? Why have you called us here?

Feris: First, I merely want you to listen. The scientists of the Neo Messiah predict disasters like the one ten years ago. And when it became a reality, all they could think of was a way to save us.

Miranda: Genetically manipulating the extinct humanity. Was it their philosophy to restore, or to preserve?

Feris: Who else would reach out for the world God had left behind? "Make great the Messians of old; If there is no God, make your own." That is the philosophy of the Neo Messiah, one that believes in the creative abilities of man.

Miranda: And under that philosophy they created Maria?

Feris: That's right. (Feris looks off the roof) Please, take a look at the world you've created below us.

(Demons tear humans apart, friends are pushed aside to save oneself, a woman is trampled by a crowd of people running for their lives. More and more people gather around the terminals, trying to escape their doom)

Sumire: They're fighting over a terminal... ripping each other's hair out for it...

Feris: This is the true nature of man.

Miranda: You brought us here to show us this...

Sumire: It's just as I thought, the people here are the worst.

Feris: This is why humans need to be managed.

Miranda: That's right, isn't it? It's sad to think that we're only human. It may indeed be necessary to have an absolute leader. People used to long for a saviour...

Sumire: A saviour, right? Not a machine!

Feris: It is the creations of man that must save man. That is the only way. However, you misguidedly wanted humanity to evolve.

Sumire: I never wanted this! Don't pretend you know what I want!

Feris: In your time you should have seen a number of tragedies caused by man and human desires. If you continue like this, you'll only lead humanity to another Great Flood. Humanity only ever walks down the same path of self-destruction.

Sumire: So your answer is to slaughter and reproduce humans out of Desire Energy?! We can destroy ourselves *by ourselves,* we're not your toys!

Feris: Human desires are infinite. The risk of such desires inflating infinitely has to be controlled by a finite time axis. Suppress human desires to sustain human peace. Surely you understand why the Messiah Program is necessary? It's not murder, it's rebirth.

Miranda: I wish humanity had the ability to answer, not just have the decisions made by machines. I won't deny your methods, no matter the world ours becomes. The android is right.

Sumire: Humanity has been pumped with filth and trapped in a world of lies, and you're fine with that?

Miranda: If it's a way to end the tragedies caused by man, I do not care.

Sumire: You're filth! Just like my mother and father! Azuma, let's finish what we started!

Miranda: Azuma, I've always been your partner. That doesn't change now. I believe in you.

Sumire: What kind of partner can't even say she's in love?!

Miranda: You base your actions on emotion, a sure sign that you still haven't grown up. By not telling him my feelings I've kept us perfect as a team. I've always wanted to tell Azuma I've loved him...

Sumire: Well now's not the time, Azuma has already made up his mind!

Miranda: I was always thinking of you, Azuma. Even if this world falls apart, there is no lie in the feelings I have for you.

Sumire: I've loved Azuma since I was a child! Not a day went by for ten years that I didn't worry about him! Azuma, please... let's build the world we've always imagined.

*Option:
(Option 2) Go with Miranda

Sumire: W-Why, Azuma? I-I love you... you can't say you've never wanted to be with me... Azuma?

*Option:
(Option 2) Go with Miranda

Miranda: Azuma, I believed in you! I knew I could count on you.

Sumire: Why Azuma? You were the only person who hadn't succumbed to the filth... I can't trust anyone anymore!!

[Take up arms against Sumire. It's a shame, but you knew it had to be this way. Kill Sumire.]

(Shiki steps over Sumire's body after teleporting in)

Shiki: What a shame. Hand over the Desire Disk.

Miranda: Shiki?

Feris: Who are you, and how do you know about the disk?

(Shiki grows into his true form once again)

Miranda: You're not...

Sariel: I am the fallen angel Sariel.

Feris: If you're not an Archangel then you mustn't be a servant of God, like that man Naitou.

Miranda: What does this all mean Director?

Feris: It is God's will to destroy the newly revived human race, and to that extent he used a man named Naitou for his bidding. Naitou was a member of the Ring of Gaia.

Sariel: I'm relieved that God has lost his most cherished servant.

Feris: And your goal as a fallen angel is to destroy the Desire Disks?

Sariel: No, far from it. Inside that disk is the largest amount of Desire Energy ever collected. I can use it to break the seal holding back Lucifer.

Miranda: The demon trapped in ice in The Expense...

Sariel: The symbol of freedom, my king Lucifer.

Miranda: We were being used from the beginning...

Sariel: Azuma, Miranda, it is disappointing to see you both become tools of machines; and to kill the most pure Sumire. Her only mistake was loving you, Azuma. Now, with the power of Chaos...

(Sumire's corpse is surrounded in blinding light)

Sariel: Those who stand in the way of freedom...

(Sumire emerges as a deformed demon)

Sariel: Shall be cleansed by the power of Chaos!

(Sariel strikes Feris with a ball of light that knocks her to the ground. You lean over her dying body)

Feris: Azuma... make my... Thousand Year Kingdom... a reality...

Received the Desire Disk

(Feris dies beneath you)

Sariel: Prepare to be baptised to Chaos, Azuma.

[Fight Sariel and Demon Sumire. They're the strongest yet, but you can't give up now. Kill Sariel, and put a final end to Sumire.]

(Both your opponents disintegrate, and you are left alone)

Miranda: Sumire, you were too young... too childish. You didn't deserve to grow up in such a crooked world...

(You begin to leave, but hear something)

Miranda: Just now, what was that? Azuma, did you hear it? Go to Shinjuku. You heard me, go to Shinjuku! (To the sky) Who are you?! Dammit!

[Hurry with Miranda to the terminal, making sure to make your last save. Travel to Shinjuku.]

(A black portal shimmers before you)

Miranda: The gate to The Expense has opened again. What's going to happen now? What awaits us beyond here?

(You enter the gate)

[Walk forwards towards the wall of ice.]

Miranda: This is it, the seal holding back Lucifer. He's so close. Azuma, what should we do?

*Option:
(Option 1) We shouldn't do anything rash

Miranda: Somehow I knew you'd say something like that. Let's head back to our world. We have to fix the rifts from The Expense, stop the demons...

(You step back through the gate and into Idea Space, only to see something materialise before you. A false god, the Neo Messiah)

Maria: I am Maria. I am the god that guides and saves humanity.

Miranda: You're the Maria that made True Tokyo. The voice I heard before, was that you?

Maria: This world, it is now guided by you two. It is going to find its peace with you.

Miranda: Really? We can return this world to peace!

Maria: You are the saviour of the Thousand Year Kingdom, that which can only exist through the Messiah Program. Please defend this land and decide our fates. Join me.

Miranda: Azuma, what do you think we should do?

*Option:
(Option 2) I cannot accept

Miranda: Why, Azuma? We could be real partners again. Don't be stupid! Once incorporated into the program, we could be together forever. We could bring peace to all those left behind by God, by Administration. Remember your family. Remember Emi. She's still here. Azuma, please.

*Option:
(Option 2) I refuse

Miranda: Why? W-Why... Azuma? I love you...

Maria: Do not worry, Miranda. All your hopes and desires will become a reality if you make Azuma join you in the system.

Miranda: U-Understood. Azuma, you're not thinking straight. I'm sorry, but it's for your sake. I'm just thinking of you. You'll realise what's right soon enough. We will create a lawful world where all is perfect. Now, you have to join us!

[This is it, your last friend left standing. You know what has to be done. Kill Miranda.]

(Azuma sheds a tear as Miranda disappears)

Maria: Not even I could have predicted that you'd kill the woman who loved you. I even thought you loved her back. It is my duty and role to predict future events, and thus such an unpredictable being must be destroyed...

[Here it is, your last known enemy left standing. Eliminate the false god Maria.]

(Maria is finished)

[You are given back control in the middle of a bare Idea Space. Remember when I said you should save one last time? Well, you'd best save once more for good measure. Idea Space is desolate, all you can do is fuse demons in the Fusion Chambers. I recommend a party of Vishnu, Susano-o, Shiva, and Indrajit. Get your best demons ready before walking to the middle of Shinjuku and meeting the sole remaining person around: the Cute Girl who runs the flower shop.]

(She transforms into a beautiful goddess, right before your eyes)

Sophia: It's not over yet. The Creator of All Things plans to use Leviathan to sink the world to the bottom of the ocean once more. From here on the fate of mankind must separate from what you once called "God," the one who started this all. Are you ready to leave for another world?

*Option:
(Option 1) Ready as I'll ever be

Sophia: I shall be your guide. You will be taken to another world, another place entirely by the power of my knowledge.

[You are transported into a large and gleaming white hallway. Walk all the way down to the door at the end.]

(Sophia basks you in light)

Sophia: Please, venture forth. Confront the one holding your fate. This is the greatest trial one can overcome.

(You leave Sophia and enter a massive void with nothing but pillars by your side. An enormous golden god appears seated alone)

Yaldaboath: I see thou have come. Not only has thou poisoned the apostle Raguel, but defiled the heavens and direct thine sword my way. People bathe in their sin. Look back at all there is; human history is no less than a skirmish of crime, foolishness, and bad luck. The guilt and sin of thee and thine - of humanity - cannot be reconciled by anything but death and damnation. You've had your run, and thou hath failed. Die for me.

[The final battle. As you chip away at this god, the gold surrounding him is stripped away. He is seen for what he really is. Underneath he is cold and black; rotten to the core. Once you defeat his body, his head detaches and attacks you. The whole place falls apart as you slaughter a god.]

You have defeated The Creator of All Things. Do you really think there is a place to return to?
Stupid humanity...

(Your life flashes before your eyes, and Sophia floats above you)

Law and Chaos... the products of biased desire. There is a spiritual light hidden deep within us all. Disclose the truth to mankind, the proof of the Gnostic Saviour. When the last spirit is dead, the universe becomes meaningless and will disappear. You have escaped the prison of the flesh. I will return, to the place where the new humanity should wait for me... You have saved us.

The End.

[There you have it, the entirety of Shin Megami Tensei: NINE's Neutral-Neutral route. This route is usually considered the most canonical to other games as it leaves the most up in the air by not siding with any one character. That being said, this was only one way to do it. NINE has so many different routes and ways scenes and scenarios can play out, as well as an abundance of endings (not to mention various genders for each main character). Although being the most canon, the N-N ending is also the bleakest. As such I have decided to include another ending: the Sumire ending (which I believe is the Chaos-Law ending but I can't be too sure). This is a happier ending, which starts truly differing from the N-N during an alternate version of the rooftop scene with Feris, Miranda, Shiki and Sumire. This has been an N-N guide so the prior requirements to get this scene are different. Basically in this version of the scene, Feris is already dead and you haven't fought either of your love interests. Shiki has only now gotten the chance to ask you for the Desire Disk, which Feris gave you before her death. Shiki and Sumire want you to hand over the disk, whilst Miranda wants otherwise.]

Sumire: Azuma, please...

Shiki: Azuma, you know what you believe in. Fight for it.

*Option:
(Option 2) Hand over the disk

Miranda: Wait, Azuma... you're not that kind of person! I believe in you!!

*Option:
(Option 2) Hand it over

(You walk over calmly and place it in Shiki’s hand, before joining Sumire)

Sumire: You made the right choice, Azuma.

Miranda: Azuma... I thought you were my partner...

Shiki: Mmm, I can feel it. This is perfect, this is all we need to revive Lucifer; to bring the world to the freedom of chaos!

(Shiki morphs into his true form, his light shining stronger than ever)

Sariel: I am the fallen angel Sariel, once an archangel tasked with watching over humanity. Azuma, I will open the Gate to The Expense in Shinjuku. From there, I will meet you at Lucifer's seal.

Miranda: I won't let you go!

(Sumire nods to Sariel and he flies away)

Sumire: It seems you're stepping in the way of fate, Miranda. That won't fly.

Miranda: Y-You two truly are demons. I can't believe I ever thought otherwise... after all, we were always destined to fight.

[Miranda hopelessly tries to hold off against you and Sumire, but you defeat her with ease.]

(You kneel over Miranda's body as she disappears)

Sumire: Okay Azuma, he said to meet in Shinjuku. Let's go! (A sound echoes out as you try to leave) Ah, did you hear that? (To the sky) Who is it? Who are you? Azuma, it just doesn't feel right. We need to hurry. To Shinjuku!

[You use the terminal to get to the Gate.]

(Just in front of the Gate you find Shiki lying dead in his human form)

Sumire: Wh-What is... Shiki?

Received Desire Disk

(Sumire shakes her head solemnly, but jolts in surprise)

Sumire: I heard it again!

(Maria materialises before you in all her false glory)

Maria: I am Maria. I am the god that guides and saves humanity.

Sumire: You're Maria?! So that voice I've been hearing, that was you?!

Maria: I cannot allow you to destroy this world, just as humanity is on the cusp of peace.

Sumire: You've got to be joking! There is no peace in a world birthed of machine!

[Maria transforms into her statue form and a battle begins, her summoning various demons of Christian symbolism to fight aside her for the reign over Idea Space. Eventually she crumbles into nothing. You and Sumire enter the Gate into The Expense and approach Lucifer's seal of ice.]

Sumire: This is the wall of ice holding back Lucifer...

(Azuma throws the Desire Disk at the seal and it shatters to pieces. From the weakened seal, Lucifer slashes his way out. He flies above you, a six winged and gorgeous angel)

Lucifer: Who... Who is it that saves me from my slumber? Could it be you have the power to do what I need...? State your name, young one.

*Option:
(Option 2) Say nothing

Lucifer: It is your freedom to refuse me your name, and respecting the positive spirit I can sense in your soul, I shan't pander you further. Though I can see in your heart there lies a desire; a fate that you cannot escape. Let us join hands and together form the new generation.

*Option:
(Option 1) I accept, Lord Lucifer

Lucifer: Oh, you are but a son of man. God may have birthed you, but he has also cursed you with the weight of the Original Sin. There is no freedom in his ways. If you wish to become more than the sum of your parts, now is the time to severe the filthy bond you have with "God." Come on now, and gain your true freedom.

(Sumire nods in your direction and Lucifer teleports you both to a shining and bright hallway which you bravely journey down until you reach a large doorway)

Lucifer: Son of man, before confronting your destiny that waits beyond this door allow me to heal you.

(Lucifer's light fills you and Sumire)

Lucifer: Come now, young ones. You must overcome the most devastating hurdle of your journey, and grasp your eternal freedom from the shackles that bound!

(Sumire gives you a glowing, knowing look before you enter through the doors. You are in a void, stretching on all around you with nothing but a few pillars by your side. A large god appears towering over you)

Yaldaboath: I see thou have come. Not only has thou poisoned the apostle Raguel, but defiled the heavens and direct thine sword my way. The continued existence of man is nothing more than another deadly sin.

Sumire: I can't deny that, but I guess that'd make you the creator of sin! Feel free to spit on humanity, but remember by saying so you're only confirming your own filth!

Yaldaboath: Listen closely and listen well, for thou have been cursed. Look back at all there is; human history is no less than a skirmish of crime, foolishness, and bad luck. The guilt and sin of thee and thine - of humanity - cannot be reconciled by anything but death and damnation. You've had your run, and thou hath failed. Die for me.

[Yaldaboath faces off against our heroes, who rip apart the golden layer he hides behind. As Yaldaboath's body fails him, he attempts to finish you off as a mere head: a shadow of what he thought himself to be. The illusion of grandeur shattered, and Yaldaboath barely grasping on to his life, Lucifer joins the party.]

Yaldaboath: Such power... can you truly be...?

Lucifer: Do my eyes deceive me? Do I see a god coming to fear the very fruit of his labour?

Yaldaboath: Will I lose... to those... pathetic creatures...?

Lucifer: To the deity that has realised his flaws, there is no hope of dominion over man. Farewell, "God."

Yaldaboath: Who the hell am... What have I become?

(Yaldaboath dies and his head rolls helplessly in the void. All your actions throughout the last ten years flash before you. Lucifer floats above you mesmerisingly)

The god of law has been eliminated, and you have been freed from the tyranny of Administration. The new humanity can finally find its footing in the land of chaos. But freedom and control are constantly at odds, much alike light and shadow. Freedom breeds control, just as control breeds freedom. They will each have their time to shine in the light, or to drown in the shadow. As you rise and stand on solid ground, you'll grow to understand what I have said. Son of man.

[Lucifer flies away, and you awake in the centre of Shinjuku in a barren Idea Space. As you use a terminal to travel to True Tokyo, you are greeted by a loving face.]

Sumire: Our world is finally free of control. From now on, Azuma, we aren't bound by anyone. We are utterly free to do whatever we want. Although, I just wanna be with you now... I know I've

said some strange stuff recently, and I've probably contradicted myself before, but you'll understand my feelings soon enough. So, where'd you like to go? Azuma, the world is our oyster.

The End.